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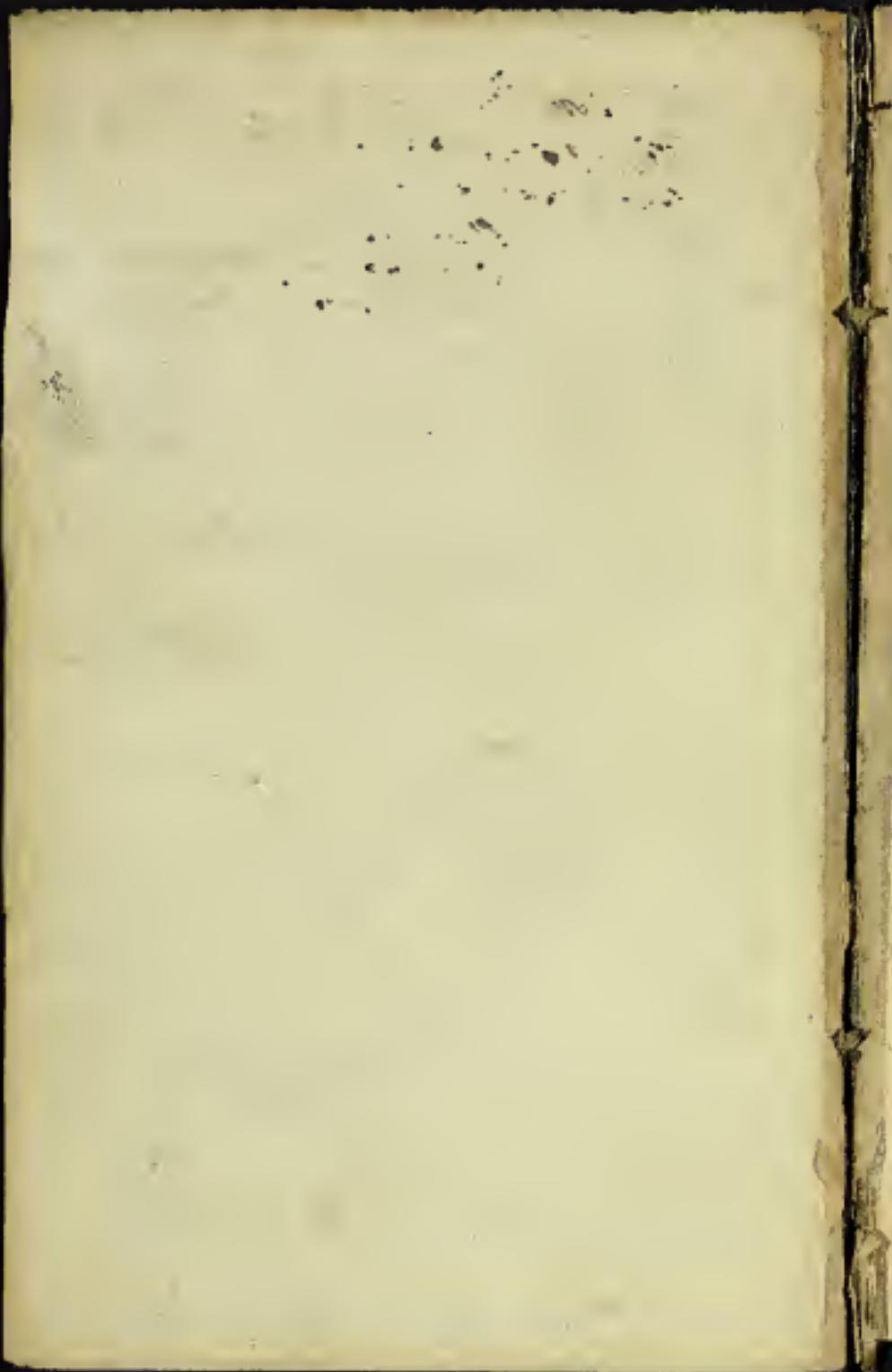


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ADVICE

TO
PURCHASERS OF HORSES;
BEING
A SHORT AND FAMILIAR TREATISE
ON THE
EXTERNAL CONFORMATION OF THE HORSE;
THE NATURE OF SOUNDNESS & UNSOUNDNESS;
AND THE
LAWS RELATING TO SALE AND WARRANTY;
WITH COPIOUS DIRECTIONS FOR DISCOVERING UNSOUNDNESS
PRIOR TO PURCHASING.

By J. STEWART,

VETERINARY SURGEON, AND PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY IN THE
ANDERSONIAN UNIVERSITY.

"The buyer hath need of an hundred eyes,
But the seller of only one."

FOURTH EDITION.

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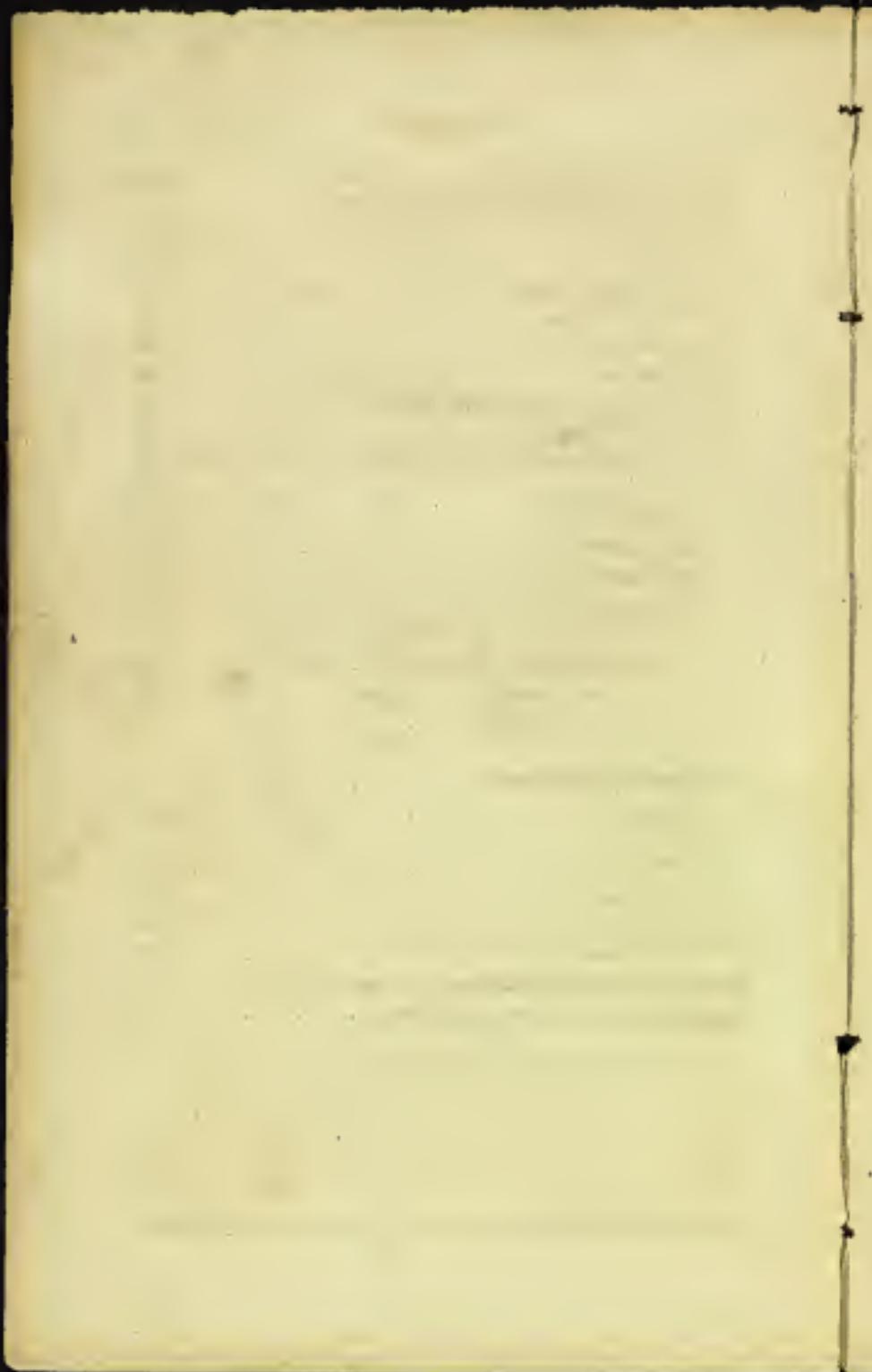
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PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION.

THE demand for this little book has been much greater than I had any reason to expect. Since its first appearance, three large editions have been exhausted, and the work has been reprinted in America. The continued and increasing demand has induced me to make some alterations, which, I think, will render it less unworthy of the attention it receives. Originally it was written somewhat too hurriedly, and published with little consideration. Several subjects, that deserved more notice, were dismissed in a single sentence, while others occupied more space than they required.

The book has been carefully revised. It has been rewritten from beginning to end. The different articles have been treated more apart, the one from the other; several—such as those on Proportion, Action, Vice, Courage, and Condition—have been so much enlarged,

as almost to deserve the name of additional. The chapter relating to law has been abridged, but nothing essential has been expunged.

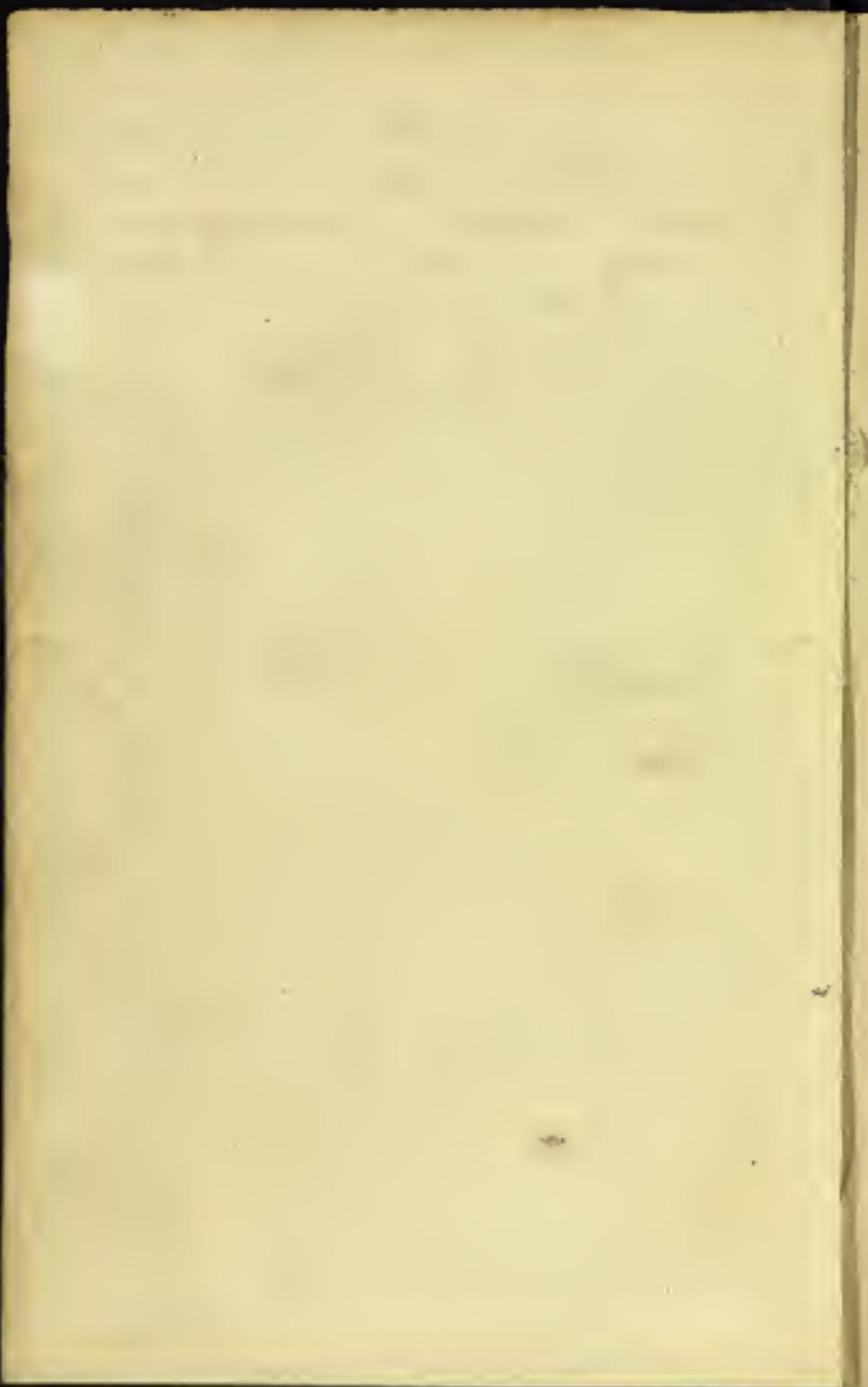
The book is intended chiefly for horsemen—for men already familiar with the technical terms applied to the horse, and to the things about him. But it has not been forgotten that there are many purchasers of this animal who are not horsemen, and that these have more need for the *Advice* than the others. People who have any thing at all to do with horses, require to know these technicalities. I have therefore admitted them, although they could have been dispensed with. Wherever they have occurred for the first time, I have endeavoured to explain their usual meaning; but they are seldom introduced for any other purpose. In description they have been employed as little as possible. If sought in the index, it will probably point to the page in which the technical word is defined.

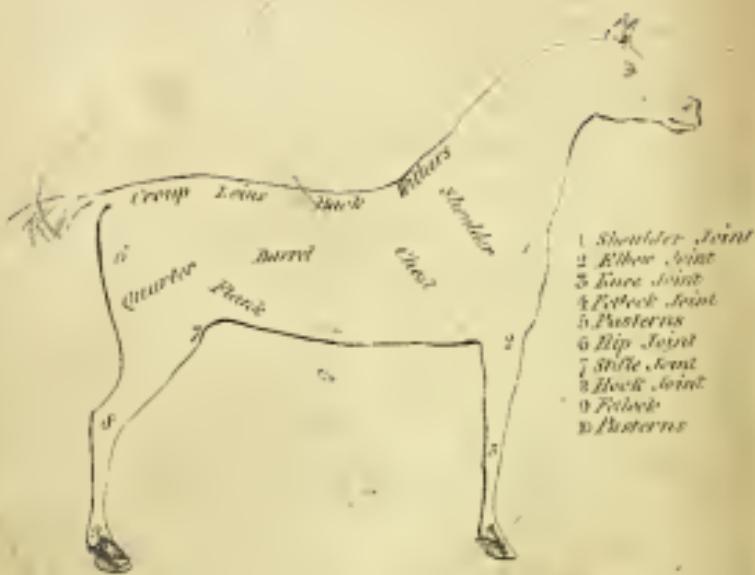
It appears to me that the *Advice to Purchasers* might sometimes be useful to gentlemen of the law. A great many of them know not the meaning of such words as soundness, vice, blemishes, and others, which play an important part in mostly all lawsuits regarding horses. They are frequently consulted when the client can tell nothing about the evil he complains of, except its name, which the agent, most probably, never heard of before, or with which he may associate things and

circumstances having no relation to it. I do not say that this book will always, or often, afford a law agent the information he may require ; yet I have no doubt but it sometimes will.

JOHN STEWART.

HOPK STREET, GLASGOW,
26th February, 1836.





1. Shoulder Joint
2. Elbow Joint
3. Knee Joint
4. Fetlock Joint
5. Pasternus
6. Hip Joint
7. Stifle Joint
8. Hock Joint
9. Fetlock
10. Pasternus



1. Seal of Speedy Cut
2. Dr. Spent
3. Kindycall
4. Shidene
5. Sandernick
6. Thorough pins
7. Capped Heel
8. Curb
9. Sparin
10. Seal of Sprain

A D V I C E
TO
PURCHASERS OF HORSES.

Introduction.

He wants much who wants a good horse. Among the purchasers of this animal a great many select with little judgment. They require something more than a quadruped able to carry and draw. He must be gifted with certain properties, the precise nature of which is not often clearly defined. Some demand too much, others too little, and a few make diligent search without knowing very well for what they are seeking. The last, indeed, declare that they are looking out for a good horse; but what constitutes this scarce sort of animal is another question, often debated and seldom decided. Some require all the perfections in combination that have ever existed in separate individuals. They speak of a horse as they would of a piece of machinery. They will have so much strength, so much speed, and a certain size; but perhaps all these when found may be refused, because there is some insignificant mark, or other peculiarity, to which nobody but themselves attaches any consequence.—“ You must seek me out a horse,” says one. “ I want him chiefly for the saddle, but able occasionally to run in harness; he must be well broke to both; and, as I may follow the hounds now

and then, he must be a good and safe leaper. He must be showy: I like a bright bay best, with black legs and feet, and a fine star of white on the forehead. Let him be fifteen-and-a-half hands high, and five years old. His action must be perfect; he must be fast and safe in all his paces. Be sure that he will never come down. I have a particular dread of stumblers. If he can walk four miles an hour I will be content, but he will please me well if he can manage five. Some horses can easily trot from fourteen to sixteen miles within the hour; but mine will rarely require to go beyond ten or twelve. To carry my weight, he must have considerable power. He must be well-made in every respect. And, moreover, he must be warranted quite sound, free from all manner of vice, and docile as a child. Let him not have any scars about him, nor a white foot, nor too much white in the face. I parted with my last horse because his tail was too short, and I thought he did not carry his head very well; and I want to sell this capital saddle horse because he does not go quite so well in harness."

To seek a horse able to perform several duties, and to perform each of these in the most perfect manner, is to seek an animal that never did and never can exist. The very circumstances which produce ability for one task, disqualify him, to a certain extent, for executing some other. There are horses to be sure of all work, as there are men of all trades; but perfection cannot exist in the one case more than in the other. The power and docility of the dray horse can never be united with the speed and fiery energy of the racer. That which confers the one, forbids the other.

Some purchasers insist upon having a faultless horse. But there are no horses of this kind. Taken altogether, horses have a great many virtues; and the deficiency, or even excess of one of these is at all times sufficient to constitute a fault. Individuals would have fewer faults if the race had fewer virtues; for we compare the virtues and vices of one horse, not so much with one other as with many others. But the purchaser, however fastidious, must always be content to overlook some blemishes, or to sacrifice some beauties, especially when the price is limited. He must place the good against the bad, and calculate how far the one counteracts the other. The loss of an eye, for example, is a serious fault, and the horse with such a defect is sold proportionally low. But if he have good limbs, and have youth on his side, he may be a very serviceable animal. He may do his work in a stage coach or a cart almost, or quite, as well as another with perfect vision.

The goodness of a horse depends upon his speed, strength, docility, courage; his safety in progression, age, education, disposition to work, and ability to endure fatigue; and, in order that he may have a tolerable share of these qualifications, it is necessary that he be sound. His colour, marks, and deportment often have considerable influence on his price, though they may have none on his physical powers. One or two may be disposed to pay a high price for a pie-bald, but the majority of purchasers dislike him. A horse is frequently supposed to be valuable because he was recently sold for a large sum of money; but this, if it proves any thing, merely proves that he suited one

purchaser who perhaps paid for peculiarities which are valueless to others.

The virtues and vices or faults of horses are very numerous. In the same animal they are frequently mingled in such proportions that it may be difficult to say which predominates, or to what extent they ought to influence his value. They are combined so variously in number and in degree, that it is quite impossible to describe all the shades of character they produce. We may analyze the component elements, but we cannot measure the proportions in which they are combined. Even in an individual horse, after all his good and bad qualities are ascertained, the degree in which each exists cannot be stated with any thing like arithmetical precision. His pace, indeed, may be measured by time and distance; and some notion may be obtained of his power by the load he can carry or draw. But no scale has yet been constructed by which his action, docility, disposition to work, &c., may be measured; and their real worth is so vaguely estimated that hardly two men out of a great many will fix the same price upon them.

How are the properties of a horse discovered? The most accurate mode of ascertaining his physical powers is to test them by an actual trial. But, in the most of cases, there are insuperable objections to this plan. The dealer, in his ordinary transactions, cannot have time or opportunity to adopt it himself, and it is not surprising that he should refuse, or be very unwilling, to afford such an advantage to others. There are certain signs however, which, with more or less accuracy, indicate the properties of the horse; and

these, when a trial is impracticable, ought to be well attended to.

Some old-fashioned people pretend to recognise a good horse by certain marks on the face or tail, by the colour of the skin, irregularities in the disposition of the hair, called feathers or swirls; some aver that a rat-tailed horse is always a good one, that stringhalt is a sign of hardiness, and so forth. Others proceed much further, and are not satisfied till they have collected more and better evidence. Yet few, especially in regard to soundness, can or do avail themselves of all the symptoms which every horse affords. It may be true that the trivial signs upon which some rely, are never found but in horses possessed of desirable properties; but, though there can be no harm in noting them, there is much folly in trusting to them. These vague signs, however, are not greatly attended to now-a-days; they are cherished only by the ignorant or the antiquated. Most of those who are in the habit of buying horses, or who have been much among these animals, predict his qualities chiefly from his shapes, his action, and his carriage. From the external conformation, some knowledge may be obtained as to his speed and power; his activity, disposition to work, and safety in progression, may be inferred from his action; and a systematic examination of different parts affords evidence, pretty strong, as to his soundness. From these three sources a great deal may be ascertained; but of the information afforded by each, that in general is the least uncertain which relates to soundness. In the market or stable-yard, it is easier to discover an unsoundness than to discover any defect in speed or power.

There are also a few signs indicative of other circumstances which influence the horse's value or utility. Such are those relating to temper, condition, courage, age, &c. Still it must be confessed that, even after the most minute inspection, something must be taken on trust. A perfect knowledge of the horse cannot be obtained without making an actual trial of him. The symptoms tell much, but they seldom tell all. They are of such a nature that, in ordinary transactions, the purchaser may rely upon them with considerable assurance. But for all this, whenever a trial of a few days can be obtained, the purchaser should always take it, however well he may be satisfied after an examination of the horse. Next to the trial, the best guarantee he can have against loss, is to withhold payment of the price for two or three days. It is always easier to return an unpaid horse than one for whom the money has been delivered.

Many and loud are the complaints about the difficulty experienced in discovering the properties of a horse before purchasing him. He is often compared to a lottery ticket; and, according to many, the chances of his being a blank or a prize appear to be nearly equal. It is true that the purchaser of a horse cannot, all at once, ascertain the real qualities of the animal with the same ease and safety, or in the same time that he may estimate the value of some other articles of merchandise. But yet, the difficulty arises, not so much from the nature of the commodity, as from the ignorance of the buyer. Manufactured goods, watches, cloths, cutting instruments, &c., vary greatly in quality, and it is not every one who can distinguish the good

from the worthless ; but we hear few or no complaints about the difficulty of verifying these and many other articles. They all have indications of their properties with which the most of people soon become acquainted. The properties, good and bad, of the horse are also shown by certain signs ; but these are less easily learned and therefore less generally known. The horse is almost, though perhaps not quite, as susceptible of verification as any other mercantile commodity. In this as in every other case, the buyer must *learn* to verify the article. In purchasing borses, the greater part, perhaps the whole of the uncertainty as to the ultimate result of the transaction, arises partly from the buyer's want of judgment, and partly, in many cases, from want of opportunity to exercise his judgment.

In looking at an intended purchase, the buyer has to consider the horse's conformation, or, as it is commonly expressed, his shapes ; his action, education, age, docility, and soundness, along with some other properties of minor importance, are each to be made the subject of inquiry. If possible the horse shoud, first of all, be seen in the stable, and afterwards in the open air where there is plenty of light and a cause-wayed lane or street, in which he may be trotted and seen without interruption from the passage of many vehicles. It will appear hereafter, when speaking of vice, that a stable examination is of considerable importance. Much may be discovered here that may not be apparent in the stable-yard or market-place.

External Conformation.

Definition. By the External Conformation, is meant the outline of the whole animal, and the relative development and position of the different parts. In this place it has nothing to do with the size of the horse taken altogether. No useful rules can be offered as to the horse's height or weight. It must vary, of course, with the purpose to which he is to be applied; and he who has no notion of adjusting the size to the work knows too little of the horse to purchase judiciously. No written instructions will be of much avail to one whose eye is not already familiar with the different breeds of horses.

To become a judge of the horse's conformation the uninitiated should, in the first place, learn the names by which horsemen indicate the different parts;* next he should know to what variations these parts are liable, in form, position, and development; and, to apply this to a useful purpose, he must know what are the consequences of these variations; or, in other words, what influence they have upon the horse's capacities. Written or oral instruction will afford him great assistance, but he must not expect them to make him a competent judge. He must have recourse to the horse for much that cannot be written. After obtaining what may be called the theory, he must obtain the practice, by actual observation; after learning what he

* The annexed diagrams will be of use for this purpose.

is to look for, he must teach his eye to perceive the peculiarities of conformation when they are before him. This is easily managed by attentively, and in a systematic manner, examining many horses, and comparing them with each other. It requires many words and some time to describe the shapes of the horse ; but an experienced eye detects beauties and imperfections in the glance of a moment. A professed dealer will single out a horse for his purpose almost the instant he sees him.* But he has served a long apprenticeship before he acquires this facility, and it has been the longer that he has had few or no rules to guide him. From occasional remarks of more experienced hands, and from insensibly noting striking peculiarities, and afterwards learning how these animals turned out, whether well or ill, he cannot but consider the properties as the consequence of the peculiarities of conformation. Many observations of this kind at length teach him what to expect from horses possessed of a certain form. It is obvious, however, that information obtained in this manner must be obtained very slowly. If there were no other method, the private purchaser could never be so well qualified to judge, for his opportunities are very limited when compared with those of the dealer. Yet, by adopting the mode mentioned in the beginning of this paragraph he may acquire the same degree of tact in a much shorter period.

The Head varies considerably in size, form, and expression. In the saddle horse it cannot be too

* This refers only to shape, not to soundness.

small ; the ears should be small, pointed, placed wide apart, yet not hanging downwards and outwards ; the space between the eyes should be flat and broad ; the eye large, protuberant, expressive of vigour ; the face flat, or nearly so ; the muzzle thin, tapering to the lips, free from fleshiness ; the nostrils thin, their entrance large and open ;* the space between the branches of the lower jaw, called the channel, should be wide. The head should be so placed on the neck, that their junction may form an angle neither very acute nor very obtuse.

A large head is generally unhandsome. It is common to draught horses. The countenance often exhibits a total want of animation ; the eyes are small, sunk in their sockets ; and the lids are thick, clumsy. These are termed pig, or crow eyes. The forehead is narrow, indicating a small brain, and its usual, though not invariable, accompaniment, a want of energy. The nose is often arched, and such horses are called Roman-nosed ; the entrance to the nostrils is small, and the borders thick, fleshy, and collapsed ; the ears are large, and hang downwards, as if too weighty to be supported ; as the horse moves his head, the ears wave from side to side as if uncontrolled. Such horses are termed lob or lop-eared. It has been said, but without much truth, that they are often good goers : the ears will not make them either good or bad, but the lop-eared are generally sluggish. The channel is

* The nostrils are always large in swift and active horses. They form not a bad criterion of the size of his lungs : a slow horse possibly may have a large nostril, but a swift horse never had a small one.

narrow, and, in consequence, the head appears to be awkwardly placed upon the neck : the throat is thick ; the motion of the head appears restrained, and the horse cannot suffer tight reining up ; there is not sufficient space between the jaws to receive the head of the wind-pipe without compression. These horses never carry the head gracefully, and they are, more than others, subject to roaring. In the saddle horse, a heavy, ill-set-on head makes him bear heavily on the hand of the rider ; makes him liable to stumble ; and a head of this kind is often combined with other defects in form. The head of the draught horse, however, need not be too strictly criticised ; the harness hides its unseemly shape ; and the support which the collar affords, counteracts the horse's tendency to fall on his knees.

The Neck in all saddle horses should be long, thin, not too much arched, yet describing a curve from the withers to the fore-top. It may be too thick and heavy in the saddle horse, but can hardly be too long. An eminent authority however contends, that it can never be too short, and that a long neck, by adding to the weight, burdens and wears out the legs and feet, besides making the horse liable to stumble. " Give me a horse," says Professor Coleman, " that will starve at grass—that is one with a short neck." But this is not the wish of a good horseman. The length of the neck always bears a certain proportion to the height of the withers : if the neck be short, either the head must be long, or the withers must be low ; and a practised rider knows which of these evils he would most avoid. He

that has ridden a short-necked horse, has occupied an uncomfortable seat ; he has felt as if the horse were all behind him, or constantly going down hill. Moreover, length of neck gives the rider more power over the horse's mouth. There is an important muscle, too, of great use in bringing the legs forward, and preventing stumbling, whose length and power, in a great measure, depends upon the length of the neck.

The junction of the neck with the shoulder is very different in different horses. In all those intended solely for the saddle, it is important that the neck stand high on the shoulder, rising upwards and forwards ; it gives the horse a lofty, commanding carriage, and ensures safety on the road. When the neck is placed lower on the shoulder, it runs almost directly forward, as in the ox, describing a line nearly straight with the back ; the horse has a mean appearance, is usually slow, and bears constantly and heavily upon the bridle : in such cases, the neck itself is always short. When the neck is arched downwards, the horse is said to be *crest-fallen*, or *ewe-necked* ; they are apt to project the muzzle, and carry the head so, that they can hardly see before them. These are also termed *star-gazers*. For the draught horse, a long and thin neck is less essential than for a roadster ; yet it is probable he has more power ; and he certainly looks better when the head projects considerably from the collar. It should not, however, as in the saddle horse, be thin ; when it wants substance, the collar must be small, and there is then some difficulty in getting the head through it ; and the additional weight which a thick neck confers, is no disadvantage to the draught.

horse, for much of his power depends upon the weight he can throw into the collar.

The Withers, that is, the ridge between the pommel of the saddle and the termination of the mane, should be elevated, spare, easily embraced with the hand. When the withers are high, the horse is said *to stand well up before*; and dealers usually attempt to exaggerate the height, by making the horse stand with his head up hill, when shown to an intended purchaser. When the withers are low, the shoulder appears thick, overloaded with flesh. Such horses are unpleasant and unsafe to ride; the weight is thrown too much forward, and they are apt to stumble. The saddle shifts forward, the rider feels as if the horse were always going down hill. In the ass and mule, the withers are usually very low; and this is one reason why they are so unpleasant to ride, and why it is so difficult to keep the saddle in its proper place without the aid of a crupper. High withers, however necessary for safety and ease, are not essential to the racer or the collar horse. Very few draught horses are high before; and Eclipse, so celebrated for his speed, had low withers, as, indeed, have the most, or a great many, of racing notoriety. In other breeds, low withers, a thick shoulder, a short, and ill-set-on neck, often go all together. Mares are generally lower before than behind.

The Shoulder should be deep, extensive, slanting from the withers downwards and forwards, and seeming to be confounded with, or running into the neck. In the heavy draught horse, the space between the

withers and the elbow joint—that is, the depth of the shoulder—is comparatively inconsiderable; the neck terminates abruptly, and is quite distinct from the shoulder, which swells outwards all at once. The difference may be ascertained in the dark, by merely passing the hand down the neck and over the shoulder; in the one case it passes insensibly on to the shoulder, and in the other it is suddenly arrested at the seat of the collar. The difference chiefly arises from the length and position of the shoulder-blade. In the draught horse, this bone is shorter, and stands more uprightly; the muscles have less room; they are clustered together; some of them are shorter, and the motion of the whole shoulder and limb is much less extensive than is requisite for good action and safety in the road horse. This kind of shoulder, so common in heavy horses, is far from being disadvantageous for those that are altogether confined to draught work. While it allows them all the action and all the safety their work requires, it affords a convenient bed for the collar, which is not disturbed as in those that have more motion in the shoulder. But the same kind of shoulder renders the saddle horse liable to stumble, and he is usually slow, confined in his action, especially in the trot. It is often combined with low withers, a short and ill-set-on neck, a wide chest, and an unsafe inclination of the body over the fore-legs. It is never seen along with a deep chest.

The Counter or breast is never too broad in the heavy draught horse; it is often too narrow in all kinds of horses, and in those intended for quick work it may

possibly be too wide. It indicates the width of the chest. When very broad, it is usually accompanied with a rolling gait in the walk or trot, and an inclination of the body over the fore-legs, both of which are faults in the saddle horse.

The Position of the Fore-legs should be observed. Viewed from the horse's side, they should descend in a straight line from the elbow to the fetlock, with the toe of the foot falling directly below the point of the shoulder. In a sound horse, the foot is rarely farther forward; when farther back, as it is in almost all farm and heavy horses, it makes the saddle horse very liable to come to his knees: the weight is naturally so much thrown beyond the points of support, that his sure-footedness can never be depended upon. Viewed from the horse's head, the limbs should approach each other a very little, as they proceed towards the ground. The approximation should be just enough to show that it exists. When it is more considerable, the horse is very apt to cut the fetlocks by striking them with the opposite foot. When they fly apart, the horse is almost always a worthless sort of beast, without action or energy. But it ought to be remembered that young unbroke horses, in general, stand loosely and awkwardly upon their legs, without any defect in conformation.

The Elbow should be broad in all horses. Its breadth depends upon the length of a bone which projects behind the line of support, and whose only use is to serve as a lever to certain muscles attached to its point. The longer this lever, the greater the

power of the muscles, and the more extensive the motion. The point of the elbow should not be directed either inwards or outwards, but point directly backwards and upwards. It may be felt by the hand, or seen by the eye; but when examined, the horse should stand fair. When the point leans towards the chest, the toes are almost invariably turned out, and the horse liable to injure the fetlock; when canted from the chest, the toes turn in, and the leg is struck higher up. In both cases the action is irregular, shuffling, and unsightly.

The Fore-Arm should be long and broad, its breadth indicating muscularity. A muscular fore-arm has something to do with high and bold action. When this part is shrunk, especially on its posterior aspect, the horse always goes near the ground, and is weak on his fore-legs. There is much difference in this respect in different horses; but there is less difference in the *length* of the fore-arm. A long fore-arm is not the pleasantest to the rider, for it accompanies or confers a long darting sort of stride in the trot; and it has been said that in hunters it makes them apt to strike the top of the fence with their knees, when leaping; but this is doubtful. The length of the fore-arm in the greyhound shows how favourable it is to rapid motion.

The Knee, in all horses, should be well developed, broad from front to back, and straight from above downward. Much of its lateral breadth depends upon a bone placed under similar circumstances with the point of the elbow, and of the same use; it is out of

the line of support, and is merely a lever for the muscles. In horses that have done much work, the knees are often inclined forward, and they are said to be *bent, or arched before.* This defect is not invariably the consequence of hard work; but whatever may be the cause, it is always, in the saddle horse, a serious deformity. When existing in a great degree, it renders him almost useless for any purpose, and even in the least degree it unfits him for the saddle. He is weak, tottering, and always ready to fall from the slightest cause. A defect of an opposite character is sometimes met with: the knees are bent a little back from the perpendicular. It is entirely attributable to natural formation. Such horses are called *calf-kneed.* I am not aware that it produces any inconvenience; but it may possibly make the horse more liable to strain of the hock tendons, and perhaps diminish the power of the muscles which bend the foot.

The Shank, or Cannon.—The space between the knee and fetlock, should be short in proportion as the forearm is long. It is composed of the bones, which support the weight, and of the tendons, which bend the foot and pasterns. Viewed from the horse's side, the shank should be of nearly the same breadth all the way down. It is a had, and a very common fault, to have want of breadth, or, as it is commonly expressed, *want of bone*, immediately below the knee. When the breadth of the cannon is considerable, the tendons on the hock of the leg stand well out from the bone; and, being removed a sufficient distance from the centre of motion, their power, or rather the power of the muscles from

which the tendons proceed, operates to most advantage, and the motion of the tendons themselves is free. It is this removal of the tendons from the bone that constitutes what horsemen call a flat shank. When the approximation is greater, the horse is said to have a little or a round bone. The apparent roundness does not, however, exist in the bone itself, but depends upon its close contact with the tendon. A shank of this kind generally belongs to a horse with low and confined action.

But the worst fault the fore-leg can have, and there are few so common, is that in which the horse is said to *want bone below the knee*, or, to *be tied below the knee*; immediately beneath this joint the cannon is very narrow, much narrower than at any other part; the tendon is much too closely bound to the bone; and the horse is very apt to want action, and still more apt to bend over—that is, to become bent at the knee. He begins to totter over almost as soon as he is put to work. The shank should be fine, free from that which, for want of a better name, is termed *gourdiness*. The skin is so thick that the shape of the internal parts, of the bones and tendons, is neither seen nor felt. This indicates want of breeding, and a tendency to swelling of the legs, and to grease from slight causes. The bones and tendons in well-bred horses are each distinctly perceived by the eye; they should be quite separate, and the spaces between them, formed by the dipping in of the skin, well marked.

The Fetlocks require no particular notice, as far as outline is concerned, for in this respect they vary very

little. Sometimes, however, they deviate from their proper relative position; instead of descending in a straight line from the elbow towards the ground, they approximate; and each becomes much exposed to injury from the opposite foot. Such horses always have the toes turned out; and besides, being determined cutters, have almost invariably an awkward shuffling gait. This improper approximation of the fetlocks to each other usually arises from the elbow being turned inwards, but sometimes the mal-formation is altogether confined to the fetlocks.

The Pastern—the space between the fetlock joint and the top of the hoof. This part varies very considerably in different breeds, and in individuals of the same breed it differs in length and in obliquity. The heavy draught horse has short upright pasterns; those of the racer are long and slanting, and between these extremes are many degrees. There are a few exceptions, but length and obliquity generally go together, and a short pastern is usually also an upright one. Long pasterns confer elasticity; they make the horse springy in his motions; it is pleasant to ride him; but he is weak, and very liable to strain and rupture the back tendons. Length and obliquity of the pasterns are necessary to the racer in order that he may perform his rapid movements without concussion; but the strain necessarily thrown upon the back tendons is often so great that the horse, especially when heavily burdened and passing over irregular ground, breaks down in the middle of his course. The tendons give way and the fetlock comes to the ground. The pastern of the racer would ill suit

the hunter, or indeed any other animal that had to carry much weight whether his own or his rider's. On the other hand, a pastern may be too short or too upright. In the heavy cart horse, whose motions are comparatively slow, there is little concussion to guard against, but there is a huge frame to support, which the long and oblique pasterns of the racer are not at all fitted to sustain. Here a short and upright pastern is requisite; but it must be longer in those intended for quicker work. Short pasterns in a saddle horse render him very unpleasant to ride; he is rarely gifted with any great speed; but such as it is the rider experiences a violent shock every time the foot comes to the ground; and this is not the only objection: a horse with short pasterns is not very safe; he is easily thrown upon his knees; a little work makes him knuckle over, and renders him still more unsafe than before.* Besides, such horses are more liable than others to disease of the bones below the knee, arising from the shock accompanying rapid motion.

It is impossible to state upon paper what is the proper degree of obliquity the pasterns should possess. It must vary according to the purposes for which the horse is required, the weight he has to carry, and the pace at which he must travel. All that can be said is that weight requires a short pastern, speed a long one. If there must be excess on either side, it had better be in favour of length; for a pastern too upright often produces knuckling over and other evils, than a long one produces sprain or rupture of the hock tendons.

* By knuckling or bending over, is meant flexion or inclination of the fetlocks forward.

It may be well, too, in examining the pastern to consider the horse's conformation otherwise. When the fore-legs are placed well forward, and the back rather long than short, the former will confer the safety and the latter the elasticity which short and upright pasterns diminish. But I know not what will make amends for a pastern too long and too oblique; art can in some measure provide against the effects by a particular mode of shoeing.*

The Foot ought to be nearly round, smooth, without any signs of brittleness, which is indicated by cracks, and vacuities, where portions of horn have been torn off with the nails. That portion of the hoof termed the crust or wall, which is seen when the foot is on the ground, should slant downwards at an angle of about forty-five degrees. It may be more or less without any great detriment; but when very oblique the sole is more or less flattened, the heels low and weak, the horse will be subject to corns; and he will be more likely to be irreparably injured should he ever be attacked by founder. When the hoof descends more perpendicularly the heels are high, the sole concave, and the horse is said to be more liable to grogginess. It is certain that a horse with such a foot is very apt to go much upon the toe, and to fall. But this state of the foot is often the result of bad shoeing, which the purchaser may consider probable if the action be good. The feet are sometimes very large, and much oftener very small in proportion to the size of the horse. They

* Keeping the heels of the shoe long and without calkings.

may be either, without any disease. Some consider a large foot advantageous for a horse that has to hunt over soft ground ; but it often accompanies or produces very indifferent action. I know of no objection to a small foot except that it sinks deep in loose ground.

The Chest is never too deep in any horse ; without plenty of room for those important organs, the lungs, there can be but little speed, and no endurance. The chest differs much in width and in depth. In some horses it is narrow from end to end ; their forelegs stand close together ; their toes are turned out, and the fetlocks inwards ; their shoulders are flat, belly small, loins narrow, and they want substance in the girth. Such horses often have a good deal of animation ; but they can stand no fatigue ; a little work takes away their appetite ; they are easily purged, even by a draught of water or a smart gallop, and among stablemen they are termed *washy horses*. Their legs appear to be far too long, and horsemen say that they are too *light in the carcase*, or that they have *too much daylight below them*. There are other horses in whom the chest is both deep and wide behind the elbow ; but it wants capacity and depth between the shoulders ; it tapers too much as it proceeds forward. These stand with their forelegs close together ; the sides swell out abruptly behind the elbows ; the head hangs low ; the withers are hardly seen, and the horse has seldom much energy or good action. It is difficult to ride him without a crupper ; the saddle shifts forward, and the girths cannot be kept off the elbows. Conformation of this kind very often belongs to ponies : they are generally good-

natured hardy sort of beasts, enduring a good deal of ill-usage, always ready for their food, however coarse, and often maintaining their condition on a scanty allowance ; but they are lazy, mean in their appearance, and very awkward to ride.

Depth of chest between the shoulders belongs almost exclusively to the horse of speed. Like the greyhound's, it is deeper before than behind ; but it is wide too. Instead of running sharply to a point between the shoulders, it swells boldly outwards and downwards ; the protuberance of the breast bone and the muscles by which it is covered, opposes the advance of the saddle by keeping the girths in their proper place. In very deep-chested horses, there is actually a little depression between the swell of the breast-bone and the rise of the belly, into which the girths are received and retained immovable. This depression at the girthing place is a good criterion of the depth of the chest between the shoulders ; the depth of the shoulder itself is another : the width of the chest is indicated partly by the cylindrical appearance of the whole carcase, and partly by the distance between the fore-legs. The most of draught horses have wide but not deep chests, and it has been said that a circular chest, being that in which there is the greatest capacity, is the best adapted for horses of speed ; but it has been objected by others that when the chest is remarkable for width in front, the horse is awkward in his gait, having a portion of the rolling motion of the goose. This may be true as far as regards trotting ; but not, it is said, in reference to a horse, like the hunter and racer, that does all his work by a succession of leaps. It may be

observed, however, that the chest of the greyhound is more remarkable for depth than for breadth, and that he proceeds by bounds in the same way as the horse at the gallop : had a circular chest been more advantageous, there can be little doubt but that He, who has given so much would have given that too. A round-chested horse is generally slow, but long enduring; healthy, strong, easily kept, and apt to accumulate flesh ; but the bunter and racer must be remarkable for a deep chest rather than for a round one.

The Barrel.—This word is sometimes applied to all the body between the shoulders and haunches, and in this sense it includes the back, loins, belly, flank, and some of the ribs ; but most frequently the word is applied only to the sides. In the former sense, it may be observed, that the barrel should approach to a cylindrical form ; the more it does so the better. In the latter meaning, the barrel, that is the side, should be deep, and at the same time round, not flat. When the sides are flattened, the belly is very pendant ; the spine, from the withers to the rump, forms a sharp unseemly ridge. The ribs, instead of swelling outwards from the spine, as in round-barreled horses, run downwards. Horses of this shape are never famed for speed ; in general they are slow, lazy, have bad action ; are apt to over-reach the fore foot with the hind one ; and they are never handsome. Among stablemen they are termed *flat-sided*, or *flat-ribbed*. They that place much stress on the depth of the ribs or belly are apt to be deceived with these horses. The fact is, they have too much depth and too little width

of carcase. They are only fit for slow work. The fault is very common among mules and asses.

The Back.—The part which the saddle covers may be too long or too short ; a short back is necessary for carrying great weight, a long one for rapid progression. Short-backed horses are, in general, very hardy ; they endure much fatigue, travel far, and carry heavy burdens ; but on the other hand they are very seldom fast ; they generally over-reach, continually making that disagreeable noise termed forging, and their action is confined. A long back is favourable for an extensive stride and rapid motion, but it makes the horse weak, unable to carry much weight ; and even in harness he soon becomes fatigued... It must vary in length according to the purposes for which the horse is required. A hot young rider of light weight should choose a horse with a back rather long than short ; he will have no patience with the slow yet persevering pace of one with a short back. Short-backed horses are unfit for ladies ; they are very rough in their paces, and they have no room for the side-saddle. In all horses the back should be straight ; when sunk, whether in consequence of original form or of hard work, they are weak, unable to carry much weight ; yet they are easy to the rider. They are called *saddle-backed* horses.

The Loins reach from the termination of the back to a line drawn from haunch to haunch. Like the back, the loins should be neither very long, nor very short, unless the horse be wanted entirely for speed or entirely for power. That which has been said of the

back is equally applicable to the loins ; length accompanies speed and weakness, shortness accompanies strength and confined action. The length of the loins is indicated by the apparent length of the spine, and by the space between the last rib and the haunch bone. When these two points are near each other, the horse is said to be *well-ribbed, ribbed home, short-ribbed, short-backed, or close-coupled* ; the shortness, however, exists in the loins.

The loins should be straight. When arched upwards the horse is said to be *roach-backed*. Many well-bred horses are so, but it is more than an unsightly defect ; it brings the fore and hind feet too close together, confines the horse's action, and makes his pace rough and unpleasant ; yet it confers strength for carrying weight.

The loins should be broad in all horses ; breadth here gives strength without interfering with speed ; and it always accompanies a round capacious barrel. The loins are best seen from some elevation, such as the driver's seat on a coach, or in a gig. When they are narrow, the chest and belly generally want capacity, and the horse is said to be light-carcased, or light in the flank, which is hollow and tucked up. Narrow-loined horses, accompanied, as this defect so often is, with many others, are always comparatively weak and ineffective. They are often seen in stage coaches ; and when coupled with another of better shape, their weakness is apparent at a glance, especially to one who can compare them off the box-seat. It is painful to witness one of this kind towards the end of a long stage, trudging feebly at the side of a

bold vigorous companion; and it is a fine thing to see how this animal willingly spends his energy in doing the work of his feeble ally.

The Croup begins where the loins end, and terminates at the root of the tail. Upon the length and direction of the croup a good quarter depends. In all horses intended for quick work, the croup should be long, and proceed backwards in a direction nearly horizontal. In almost all well-bred horses, it is both long and straight; but in ponies, mules, asses, Irish and draught horses, it is short, and droops suddenly as it proceeds backwards, so much so that the root of the tail appears nearly half-way down the buttock. The Irish horse is noted for this peculiarity; and hence the prevalence in Ireland of that abominable operation termed nicking, which is intended to improve the animal's appearance, but which, in reality, makes bad worse. As the croup approaches to the perpendicular line, the muscles of the hind quarter are short, heaped together, and they have to act under disadvantages, the levers to which they are attached being comparatively short. The difference between the horizontal and the drooping croup is apparent to the most inexperienced eye; to obtain a striking view of the dissimilarity it is only necessary to place a well-bred English hunter by the side of a plain Irish horse, and stand a few yards behind them. Although the horizontal is always preferred to the drooping croup, it must not be supposed that the latter is an intolerable defect. It detracts greatly from the horse's appearance, however faultless he may be otherwise; but many

of them are excellent horses, and those of Ireland are famous for being good upright leapers.

The Quarters can never be too wide nor too deep in any horse. They are much concerned both with power and speed, and it is essential for great exertion, that these parts be well developed in every direction. In some horses, the quarters want depth, in others they want breadth; but the most common fault is want of lateral development—the horse is not sufficiently broad across the haunches. Very often all the three defects exist together. The first—that, namely, in which the quarter wants depth—generally accompanies confined and slow action; the horse cannot take a long stride, especially in the canter or gallop; and he is seldom remarkable for power either in carrying or drawing. The second fault—that in which there is want of breadth from the haunch-bone backwards—very often accompanies a drooping croup. It is attended with nearly the same disadvantages as the other, unless when depth compensates for want of breadth. The want of lateral development usually accompanies narrow loins, &c.; and from a horse with such quarters nothing extraordinary need ever be expected. They that can, by mere dint of nervous energy, perform much labour, are soon worn out.

When the haunch-bone projects more than usual, the horse is said to have *ragged hips*. When not arising from poverty, it depends upon want of breadth in the loins, or it shows want of muscle on the thigh. There is yet another fault in the quarters; it is that in which they run to a sharp ridge at the croup. This

defect sometimes exists alone, but oftener it is combined with general narrowness of the whole haunch—always the sign of a weak horse.

The Position of the hind-leg varies as much as that of the fore-leg. When the horse is standing at ease, and the feet directly opposite each other, the toe should not be before a line falling from the stifle joint. For racers, the farther the toe is behind this line the better. In long-legged, spare-quartered horses, the hind feet generally stand too far forward, and the pace is much confined. The toe should point directly forward; when turned out, the hocks approximate, and when turned in, the hocks are turned out; and sometimes the whole limb, from the stifle joint to the foot, describes a curve, with its convex side outwards. This is always accompanied by clumsy, shuffling action. The horse wears his shoes very rapidly; and I am disposed to think he is more liable to disease of the stifle joint. Draught horses are most subject to this defect: when moving, the limb turns outwards upon the foot, as an axis. Viewed from behind the horse, the legs should stand well apart, proceeding directly to the ground without any inclination inwards or outwards, either of the hocks or of the pasterns. In many old hard-worked horses, and in some young ones, the interval between the thighs, at the upper part, is too great: it betokens want of muscular development, old age, or emaciation.

The Gaskin—that is, the space between the stifle and hock joints—varies a little in length, and much in

volume. Like the parts above, it should be well furnished with muscle, and the muscles should descend boldly towards the hock. When they are short, want of length in the muscles is indicated by an ugly angle at the back of the gaskins; the quarter is rounded, stops short without passing insensibly into the thigh. This defect is best seen by a side view. The horse in whom it exists has a slow, creeping sort of gait, and his limbs have a naked hony appearance. Among stahlemen he is termed *hare-hammed*.

The Hock should be broad laterally; the point, which corresponds to our heel, should be quite distinct from the body of the hock joint. It is altogether a lever to which the muscles placed on the back of the gaskin are attached; and the breadth of the hock, taken altogether, indicates the length of this lever. The distance of the hamstrings* from the bone also indicates the length and position of this lever. In the most of draught horses it is comparatively short, and points more directly upwards than in horses of speed. For the racer it cannot be too long; but, when very long, the hock is always very much bent, which appears to render it weak or unable to bear much additional weight. It is usually also combined with smallness of bone immediately below the hock joint; and such hocks are termed curby—that is to say, they are more liable to the injury termed a curh, than others differently shaped. On the other hand, when the hock is narrow and straight, it is more liable to thoroughpin;

* The Tendo Achillis.

and, though the horse can carry more weight, he cannot take an extensive stride in the gallop. There is a form for different horses, according to the purpose for which they are required ; and the eye, by frequent comparisons, soon learns to distinguish and choose. The transverse breadth of the hock varies considerably, though not so often or so much as the lateral breadth. For all purposes, it should be broad from side to side. In fact, all the joints of the horse should be well developed : this, and the angularities of the bones composing them, should appear distinctly through the skin.

When the hocks approximate, the horse, among stablemen, is said to be *cow-hocked*. It gives him an ungraceful, unsteady-like appearance ; but it is not certain that such conformation is detrimental either to speed or power ; but probably it disposes the horse to bone spavin.

The shank, fetlocks, and pasterns of the hind-leg, are liable to the same defects as those of the fore-leg ; and they are more liable to that shapeless fulness termed gourdiness.

Proportion.

Some of the continental veterinarians have attempted to reduce the external conformation of the horse to fixed rules, by geometrical measurement of the body, limbs, and other parts. Bourgelat, one who laboured with some success in the improvement of veterinary medicine, was the first, I understand, who completed a scale of proportions. But admitting this scale to be

constructed by accurate measurement of the parts to which it refers, still it must be of very limited utility. It can be applied only to one breed of horses; and suppose we had a separate scale for each of the different breeds—that is, one for the racer, one for the roadster, another for the cart horse, and so forth—yet very little would be gained. All road horses must not be of the same conformation; they must vary according to the weight of the rider; the pace at which he travels, the distance of his journeys; and the nature of the road and country which he has to traverse. If there were but a definite number of varieties in the form of the horse, or in the purposes to which he is applied, then a scale of proportions might be constructed for each; but the combinations of form are endless, and so also are the modifications of the horse's work. In other words, a horse that will not suit one man, will suit another: a heavy rider, for instance, would consider a short back an indispensable requisite, while another, of much less weight, would regard it as a serious objection.

Moreover, though there may be rare circumstances in which difference of opinion as to a horse's shape might possibly be reconciled, by an appeal to some recognised standard of perfection, yet, for all every-day purposes, the eye alone can distinguish good from bad conformation, and select accordingly. The eye can learn to do this by comparing the several parts of one horse with the same parts of others. He that cannot learn to do this need never expect to become a judicious purchaser by means of the French, or any other scale of proportions. It would be a cumbrous and tedious transaction, if a horse were to be bought by measure.

To the curious, however, a few extracts from this French table may not be unacceptable.

The length of the head is assumed as the measure; it is taken from the summit of the poll* to the lower-most border of the lips.

" Three geometrical lengths of the head, give the proper height of the horse, measuring from his poll down to the ground—that is, supposing the head to be in its natural position.

" Two heads and a-half, give the height of the body, from the withers to the ground; also the length of the body, including both the fore and hind quarters.

The entire length of the head, gives,

The length of the neck from the withers to the poll;

The depth of the shoulders, from the withers to the elbow; and

The breadth of the shoulders from side to side.

The length of the head from the poll to the corner of the lips, gives,

The length of the croup, taken from the haunch bone (anterior spine of the ileum,) to the couples, (tuberosity of ischium;)

The breadth of the croup, taken from haunch to haunch, or extent between the inferior spines of the ilea;

The height of the croup, from the point of the stifle to the summit of the croup, the limb being at rest;

The lateral length of the hind legs, measuring from the point of the stifle to the protuberant part on the side of the gaskin, thence, in a straight line, to the projecting side of the hock.

* The occiput.

The height of the hock from the ground, measured from the point referred to above; and

The distance from the summit of the withers to the insertion of the neck into the chest.

Twice the last measure—namely, that from the poll to the angle of the mouth—gives, pretty nearly,

The measure from the point of the withers to that of the stifle; and

The measure from the point of the elbow to the summit of the croup, or posterior spines of the ilea.

The distance from the elbow to the bend of the knee, is the same as

The distance from the same bend to the ground;

The distance from the stifle to the bend of the hock; and

From the bend of the hock to the coronet."—*Percival; Veterinarian*; vol. iv. p. 81.

Sainbell, the first professor of the Veterinary College, published an account of the geometrical proportions of Eclipse; and he there observes that this celebrated horse differed considerably from the French standard, which, according to Mr. Percival, must be regarded as applicable to the hack or hunter, or even to the cart horse, rather than to the racer.

"Sainbell regarded the frame of Eclipse as 'almost perfect'; yet it was found to differ from the French standard in the following important respects:

Instead of three heads, Eclipse measured three and a-half from the foretop to the ground.

Eclipse's neck measured half as long again as that of the standard.

The height of the body—according to the standard

—should be equal to its length : the height of Eclipse exceeded the length by one-tenth.

The toe should maintain a perpendicular line with the stifle : the toe of Eclipse stood half a head farther back.

The distance from the elbow to the knee greatly exceeded the measure from the knee to the ground : in the standard, it is said these measurements ought to be of equal length." — *Veterinarian*, vol. iv. p. 84.

I have little doubt but he differed in other respects ; the length, for example, assigned to the croup, is much too short for a race horse.

Colour.

It is an old and true observation, that there are good horses of all colours ; but it is not so true that a good horse cannot be of a bad colour : they that think so, may care nothing whether the horse be black or white ; but the most of people are less indifferent. The dealer well knows that a horse is often objected to for nothing but his colour, and, in consequence, it frequently influences his price. Speaking generally, light-coloured horses, such as duns, sorrel, and silver grey, or, white, are supposed to possess less strength and endurance than those of a darker colour. The chestnuts are supposed to be, more than any other, liable to contracted feet ; and blacks, it is said, are more subject to vice, disease, and blindness, than those of any other colour. The grey is a handsome and with many a favourite colour ; but they are objected to for

the saddle, because, during the moulting season, they soil the rider's clothes. They are also liable to a disease which is not known to attack other horses.* The dark brown, and the bright bay, with black legs, mane, and tail, are the favourites for the saddle. Pie-bald horses rarely look well; and they are so much the property of mountebanks and quack doctors, that few respectable folk like to have anything to do with them. Much white on the face or on the legs is also very generally objected to; merely, I suppose, because fashion has said it is unhandsome. White-legged horses are said, however, to be more liable than others to disease of the heels, to grease; but this, probably, is little or nothing more than conjecture.

The Hair can be dyed. . The prejudice against white legs, and a large patch of white on the face, has produced attempts to change the colour. By means of certain dyes, white hair can be rendered black or red, approaching to dark chestnut. The deception, upon a close examination, can generally be discovered, either from the dissimilarity between the natural and the artificial colour, or by the abrupt junction of the two, when a portion of the white has been untouched. Sometimes, however, the cheat passes unnoticed until the moulting season, when the dyed hair falls, and is replaced of its original colour.

* Melanosus—the formation of a black tumour under the skin, and in some parts deeper seated.

Sex.

Mares are generally supposed to be stronger, and possessed of more endurance than geldings. To the farmer, or others who can rear a colt at little expense, they have another recommendation : should they become lame, and require to be thrown out of work for a considerable period, the loss will be diminished by breeding from them. Mares, however, are very often low in the fore-hand, or, what comes to the same thing, they are generally higher behind than is altogether consistent with safety. This, though not always the case, is, so far, an objection to their use for the saddle. A few of them, too, have uncontrollable tempers during the spring of the year : they become dangerous to the other horses, and to the persons about them ; but this lasts for only a few days, and is by no means very common.

Age.

As far as the age alone is concerned, a horse is most valuable at five years old. Before this period he is not capable of extraordinary exertion, or he cannot endure so much without fatigue, or without injury. For several years after this age, he may continue in the prime of his speed and vigour ; but then, every year after he is five, is a year of his services gone, and he sinks in value accordingly. There are many people, however, who are too fond of young horses. They give too much attention to the age, and too little to

other circumstances. They seem to forget that one horse at five may have received as much injury from work as another at eight, and that, after all, the oldest of the two may have the most work in him. Very few live till age renders them useless or feeble. Hunters, hacknies, saddle horses of all kinds, and those employed in stage coaches, are worn out long before old age approaches. The feet and limbs fail before the constitution generally experiences any decay. Agricultural horses, indeed, for the most part, retain soundness in their feet and legs, almost to the last. But a great many even of these have to be thrown aside long before age has in the slightest degree impaired their vigour. The period at which the horse begins to decline is not very well known; the circumstances under which he has been placed in his youth, will materially influence the length of his life, and the duration of his vigour. But how long he would remain active and vigorous but for the influence of starvation and over-exertion, is not known with any degree of certainty. Horses have been known to live to forty and even to sixty-two years; but these are rare cases. It is not a very rare thing to see them in active exertion at twenty years; but probably they begin to decline in vigour a considerable number of years before this period.

Mr. Blaine says, that "a horse of five years may be comparatively considered as old as a man of twenty; a horse of ten years as a man of forty; a horse of fifteen as a man of fifty; a horse of twenty as a man of sixty; of twenty-five as a man of seventy; of thirty as a man of eighty; and of thirty-five as a man of ninety."

So far," he continues, "from this comparison being too much in favour of the horse, I am disposed to think it too little. Horses of thirty-five years of age are as common as men of ninety, provided it be taken into the account that there are twenty human subjects for one horse: and, unquestionably, a horse of forty-five is less rare than a man of a hundred-and-ten."—*Veterinary Outlines*, p. 40.

The age of the horse is ascertained chiefly by the front teeth of the lower jaw: but partly also by his general appearance. The representations of the seller are generally received with doubt.

The horse, like many other animals, has two sets of teeth; the first, called the colt, temporary, or milk teeth, are generally all above the jaws by the time he is six or eight months old. Soon after he is two years, these drop out, a pair at a time, and the permanent or horse teeth quickly fill the vacancies. The second set have all made their appearance by the time the horse is five years old; and he is then said to be *full-mouthed*, having twelve grinders, two tushes, and six nippers in each jaw.

Each of the front teeth, when they first appear above the gums, has an oval cavity in the centre of the wearing surface, which dips into the tooth like a funnel, becoming narrower towards the bottom. As the teeth wear down by friction, this cavity gradually diminishes in depth and breadth, until it is altogether obliterated; and as this takes place at stated periods, in each tooth, it affords a tolerably correct indication of the horse's age. It is improper to say that the cavity, or *mark*, *fills up*; it is worn out by the attrition of the opposite teeth.

The following refers only to the front teeth of the lower jaw.

About eight or ten days after birth, the colt has two nippers in the centre of the jaw.

Between the second and fourth month other two appear, one on each side of the first and central pair.

Between the sixth and eighth month another pair is added.

After this, until the horse-teeth appear, the *mark* guides us in determining the age.

At twelve months, the cavity is quite, or nearly obliterated from the central nippers.

At eighteen months, the mark is quite gone from the four central teeth; and the two that first appeared are becoming triangular on their wearing surface.

At two years the mark is gone from all the six, and the two central teeth appear considerably smaller than the others.

At about two years-and-a-half the two central teeth become loose, and drop out; the first pair of permanent nippers spring up, and are speedily on a level with the remaining four milk-teeth. The horse-teeth are larger and darker coloured than their predecessors, and their external surface has a well-marked furrow, less observable in the milk-teeth.

At three years and-a-half, other two permanent teeth make their appearance, one on each side of the central pair; and, before the colt is *four years old*, they are on a level with the corner milk-teeth, which are now yellow on their wearing surface, and small at the neck, where it joins the gum.

At four and-a-half the corner teeth come up; and,

by the time the animal is *five years old*, they are on a level with the others. Before this time, if a horse, he has likewise two tushes in each jaw. At and after this period the colt is termed a horse, and the filly a mare. A few mares have small tushes, but the majority have none.

At six the mark is quite gone from the two central nippers.

At seven the four central teeth have lost their mark; and

At eight the cavity is usually obliterated from all the six. After this time the horse is very improperly styled *aged*.

Up to this period there is little difficulty in determining the age. The changing of the teeth, and the wearing out of the mark are tolerably regular in all horses. There may be weeks or months of difference in individuals; but, as it is by the year or half-year that the age is counted, this slight variation is of no consequence. It may be observed, that colts who are warmly housed and well-fed, get the second teeth somewhat sooner than those that are half-starved, or much exposed to cold: they reach maturity in every respect a little sooner. The wearing out of the mark, too, is influenced by the manner in which the horse has been fed; and by the length of time he has been stabled: and, in a few, the teeth appear to be somewhat harder than usual, and longer resist the tear and wear of friction. When the horse is kept much upon a sandy pasture, the mark is sooner obliterated; and it is worn away at an earlier period in those that are crib-biters, or much in the habit of biting the manger. In such

cases the mark is often gone from the two central teeth by the time the horse is five years old.

The mark remains much longer in the teeth of the upper jaw, and some horsemen have recourse to it after the mark is obliterated from those of the lower. It is said that, at ten years, the cavity is worn out of the two central teeth; at twelve, out of the four in centre; and at fourteen it is said to be gone from all the six. But this is not true. The mark of the upper teeth rarely disappears so soon: and as far as I have been able to observe, the wear is so very irregular that it affords no useful criterion whatever of the horse's age.

After eight years the teeth of the lower jaw undergo some changes. There is no cavity or mark to be worn out, but the teeth still wear. At their first appearance they were of an oval shape on the wearing surface; but, as they are ground down, they assume the shape of a transverse section of the fang, which tapers towards its extremity, becoming much broader from front to back, and narrower from side to side, than that portion of the tooth originally above the gum. (See plates of the teeth, and the explanations of them.)

At about ten years of age the two central nippers have assumed a form somewhat triangular on their wearing surface; the remaining four, at a later period, also undergo a similar change in shape; and at the age of twelve, or sooner, it is apparent that, besides the alteration in shape, the teeth have changed their direction in both the upper and under jaw. Instead of describing a curve, so that the teeth of the lower meet those of the upper jaw in a direction almost perpendi-

cular to each other, they shoot forwards. The jaws in front, become narrow and flattened; the teeth of the upper shoot over those of the lower; they are narrow, triangular, or almost square, huddled together, yellow and *long*; these alterations become more and more evident as the horse grows older.

The tusks, as the horse becomes old, grow blunt, yellow, encrusted, and approach the nippers, but these changes are very irregular. They may indicate that the horse is old, but they never say *how* old. Very few horsemen place any reliance upon them.

The general appearance of the horse is not the same at all ages. When very young, the body is light; its different parts are not developed; it wants breadth and depth. The legs are long, the pasterns straight, and the forehand low. The head wants angularity; it is unfinished like; the channel is narrow; and, on a side view, the whole head appears to want breadth. The deportment or carriage of the colt is somewhat slovenly. He is constantly staring about him as if he had never seen anything before. His action is graceless, sprawling, uncertain. Taken altogether he looks as if he were loosely put together. The joints have a great deal of motion, and the limbs dangle about in all directions, as if each knew not where the others are going.

The Signs of old age, independent of the teeth, are much influenced by prior treatment, and by the horse's condition. They are not so very evident in the fat as in the lean. Hard work hastens their appearance. Grey horses generally become white soon after they are eight years of age; and a few lose most of the

black hairs sooner. As old age approaches, in those of darker colour, grey hairs appear on the head, about the eyes, muzzle, and face; the cavities over the eyes become deep; the cheeks, gums and palate shrink; the jaw bones grow thin; the eyes are weak and often weeping; they sink in their sockets; the lids are elevated and wrinkled at their inner angle, so as to confer an appearance of anxiety or suffering; the lips hang apart loosely, and often a little averted. The legs grow fine; tumours disappear from them, and they are often bent, weak and tottering. The spine sinks so as to form what is termed a saddle-back; the flesh disappears from each side of it, making the back-bone too apparent. The neck and withers also become thin and spare. In his manner the horse is grave, deliberate, or listless; his movements are slow, and the limbs rigid. He has some difficulty in getting the muzzle to the ground, and while drinking he flexes one fore-leg, so as to let the body sink a little. Old coach horses that have been long reined up, carry the head erect. In these poor animals the neck is sometimes so rigid that they would starve at grass.

Tricks of Dealers.—*It is sometimes convenient for these gentlemen to make a horse appear older or younger than he really is. If they can sell a three-year-old for a four-year-old, they save the price of nearly a year's keep; and the purchaser gets an animal too young to do much work. To enable them to do this, they forcibly draw the teeth that would naturally drop

* These tricks are practised only by dishonest dealers.

out in the course of seven or eight months. Then, the horse teeth, no longer opposed by the colt teeth, quickly rise and fill their places. A person well acquainted with the teeth may sometimes detect this piece of cheatery, by comparing the development of these forced teeth with the wear which the others have sustained; and sometimes the juvenile appearance of the animal will show that he is yet too young for work. It has happened, too, that the dealer has forgotten to draw the opposite teeth in the upper jaw; and a clumsy operator has occasionally wrenched out two teeth instead of one, on the same side. Either of these circumstances will show that some deception has been practised.

To make the horse appear younger, they have another trick, which they term *Bishopping*, in order, I suppose, to perpetuate the name of its worthless inventor, who was called Bishop. It consists in scooping a small cavity in the wearing surface of two or more of the teeth, and afterwards giving a dark colour to the hole by means of a hot iron or lunar caustic. It is never necessary to perform this disgraceful operation before the horse is eight or nine years old. But at, or any time after, this period, if it be desirable to pass him off for a seven-year old, the corner teeth are operated upon. To make him only six, the next tooth on each side is marked in the same way: but I have seen all the six bishopped well and deeply, by some ignorant knave, who had not known that an equal depth of mark is never seen in all the teeth at the same time.

An experienced eye has no difficulty in distinguish-

ing between the natural and the artificial mark. The edges of the cavities are rough, irregular; the cavity is unusually dark; and a white ring of enamel, which always surrounds the natural mark, is awanting in that produced by art. These signs are sufficient; but the length, shape, and direction of the teeth may be such as to show that there should be no mark. The bishopped horse is always unwilling to have his mouth examined; he is apprehensive of the pain he formerly suffered, when submitted to this mutilation.

Puffing the glims.—When the hollows over the eyes are very deep, an attempt is sometimes made to fill them up. They pierce small holes in the skin which lines the cavity, and blow a little air into them. This they term *puffing the glims*. It is not a very common kind of fraud, but it is practised occasionally; it takes away much of the aged cast of the countenance. The operation cannot be performed often in a short time; and it must be done almost immediately before exposing the horse for sale; otherwise the air is taken away by internal agents, and the hollowness becomes as apparent as before. If suspicion is once excited, the cheat may be very easily discovered. The part yields to pressure; it has a crackling sort of feel; by pressing upon it pretty firmly, and for a few seconds, the air is dissipated over the surrounding parts, where it remains till ultimately removed altogether. Attention may be attracted by some disparity in the fulness of the eye-pits. The operation may be overdone, or the quantity of air introduced may be greater on one side than on the other.

It ought to be observed that much hollowness over

the eyes is not a certain sign of old age. The cavity is sometimes remarkably deep in *young* horses. It is said to be so in all those that are the produce of aged parents.

Condition.

The word condition has different meanings, according to the person by whom it is employed. The dealer, or seller, first of all declares the horse must be got into condition before he can be shown for sale; then the buyer, if he know any thing about horses, says, the horse must be got into condition before he can be put to work. To persons unacquainted with stable affairs, there is much ambiguity in this. They know not that there is a wide difference between condition for sale, and condition for work. One man is solicitous only about the animal's appearance; he wants him to have a fine glossy coat, a well-filled up carcase, and a buoyancy of spirit, under the influence of which he will leap and prance as if gifted with surpassing vigour and activity. This is all the seller seeks to obtain. It is the appearance of the horse that makes his price. His ability for exertion forms no part of the bargain. It is not put to the test till the borse is sold; and, therefore, the seller, in preparing the horse for sale, cares nothing that his fatness incapacitates him for work. Every horseman knows that a horse that has been pampered in indolence and high feeding, has to be prepared for exertion. In the stables of the seller, the horse has probably stood for several weeks

idle ; during this time he has received large quantities of rich boiled food, and perhaps some medicines to hasten the fattening process. If taken on a journey in this state, he starts, indecd, as if he would never tire ; but, after a few miles, he becomes breathless ; his step falters ; his skin is covered with thick white foam ; and a very little more completely exhausts him, or does him irreparable injury. A horse in this state is said to be *soft, wersh, made up for the market, or out of condition*—that is, out of working condition.

Mismanagement of the Purchaser.—Hundreds of horses have been ruined or destroyed by the first journey they have made, after being purchased. The buyer has been ignorant that, to command even moderate work from a horse, he must be prepared for it very gradually, and by a systematic course of treatment. The buyer has, again and again, destroyed the horse by neglecting this treatment ; he has pursued the seller for the price of the purchase ; and there have been judges and juries ignorant enough to grant a verdict in his favour. The history of these cases is soon told, and it is nearly the same in all. The horse appeared to be well enough when sold ; he was ridden or driven a few miles out of town ; became dull and exhausted ere he reached the end of his stage ; could hardly be got home ; he lingered a few days under the absurd treatment of the groom or blacksmith ; he died ; was opened ; the farrier examined the body ; found the lungs quite black ; declares they were rotten, and that the horse must have been long unsound. The parties then go to law ; and the evidence of the blacksmith and that of the groom, or others as ignorant, decides the

case at once. The seller is most unjustly obliged to refund the money, and pay all expenses.

In cases of this kind, there are always two parties in error, and very often three. The first is the buyer, who expects services from the horse, for which he has not been prepared : the second is the legal authority, who admits the evidence of the blacksmith, farrier, or groom, either or all, without inquiring whether or not they are capable of deciding rightly upon what they have seen. The third party in error is the seller, who ought to have sent one, or perhaps two, veterinary surgeons, to examine the body of the horse, and ascertain the cause of death, and whether the cause existed before, or was applied after, the horse was sold. So far as it extends, their evidence, and theirs only, should be relied upon in such cases.

The dealer, or seller, is not to blame. He does not pretend to sell the horse in condition for work. At the most, he warrants only the soundness, freedom from vice, and extent of education. If he were to sell the animal as one fit for immediate exertion, as one in working condition, it would be another affair, both to buyer and seller. The price would not be the same ; in many cases it might be doubled, or more than doubled. Every fox-hunter knows the difference between a horse *in* and a horse *out* of working condition.

Nimrod, so celebrated for his "Letters on the Condition of Hunters," well knows the value of a workable horse. He says, "A blank sheet of paper was offered to me about six weeks back, by a gentleman who keeps hounds, with a request that I would write my own

cheque (i. e. a cheque for my own price) on his banker and he would sign it, for a mare—which is certainly a model of the art of grooming, as relates to the condition of a hunter; but which offer I refused, saying, I should not refuse such an offer for the mare, but I could not part with her condition.”—*Remarks on the Condition of Hunters.* 1834.

It cannot be contended that the seller ought not to pamper and fatten his horse for sale, as he usually does, in order to make him look well. He is as fully entitled to make his goods attractive as a dealer in any other kind of merchandise. It is the practice with every merchant, all over the world, wherever it is not expressly prohibited by legal enactments. If there is deception or dishonesty in the case of the horse-dealer, there must be the same in the case of every other.

Signs of Condition.—Assurance of the horse's condition may be obtained, partly from his general appearance and deportment, partly from knowing what he has been doing for several weeks or months back, but most of all from an actual trial. A horse that has been made up for the market, is fat and plump; his flesh, all over the body, is soft, flabby, impressible; his ribs are thickly clad; the form and action of the muscles can nowhere be seen. When first brought out of the stable, and run in view of the buyer, he is very restless, eager to run, playful, throwing up his heels, rearing, and hounding from side to side. Taken on to the road, he starts cheerfully and eagerly, but too impatiently; he requires the curb more than the spur. His vigour, however, is of brief duration. Very soon, he frets himself out of breath, and, if urged farther, he

perspires soon, and profusely ; the white foam of a *soft* horse covers his sides : the rider feels and hears the heart labouring with terrible violence and rapidity ; evn after the exertion is over, the horse continues to perspire for a long time ; and it is difficult to get him dry.

A horse in working condition is quite a different animal. He may be playful when first brought to the door ; but he has some grace in his playfulness ; the limbs, and every part of the body, appear to be under the most perfect control ; there is no sprawling hither and thither, as if the one foot had nothing to do with the other ; every movement is precise, energetic, rapid. He may, also, especially if he has been idle for a day or two, be impatient to start when mounted, but he proceeds as if he thought he had a long journey to perform ; and he puts off little or no time in useless gambolling at the outset. The distance he proceeds, and the rate at which he travels, before he shows any signs of distress, indicate what he can do. The symptoms of distress, as has already been said, are, quickness of breathing, early and frothy perspiration, unsteadiness of gait, and gradual diminution of the pace. These, of course, will appear in any horse, under severe exertion ; but they appear much sooner in the ill-conditioned than in the good-conditioned. The character of the perspiration, however, is not the same in both ; it is foamy and unctuous in those that have not been prepared for exertion, while in those of condition for work, it is transparent, and less adherent : it merely wets the hair, or trickles off in clear drops ; and afterwards the skin is soon dry, and easily cleaned. In the other case, the horse dries slowly, and the hairs

adhere together. This adhesion of the hairs, it must be observed, however, is much influenced, and sometimes altogether produced, by bad grooming, or rather want of grooming. A dusty road will produce nearly the same effect. The dust unites with the matter perspired, and forms a pasty sort of substance which hardens as it dries, and glues the hairs into masses.

Sluggishness—Energy.

Unless a horse have the will to work, it matters little how great may be his power, or how well he is formed. There are many, gifted with an almost faultless form, who are perfectly free from unsoundness and vice, and perhaps handsome animals to look at, yet, when tried, they prove the veriest jades. Some of this kind go well enough for a mile or two at first ; but afterwards, neither whip nor spur will urge them beyond a very sober pace, which is performed with great reluctance, and requires the constant exercise of the lash. They often travel homewards more briskly, though still without any great hurry ; others may be induced, by company, to assume what, for them, is an unwonted degree of celerity in their movements ; but yet if they manage to keep near a companion, they have no ambition to take the lead ; if he goes beyond a certain pace they are content to remain behind. There are various degrees of this laziness. Some are so excessively sluggish that neither company, the prospect of home, nor punishment will arouse them from lethargy. A horse of this kind may do his work well enough if he

is never required to go beyond his own pace: But he should never be harnessed with another horse ; for, though he may be dragged onwards, yet will he do no work. There is no danger of the collar galling his shoulders. The beast appears to have no feeling ; he jogs away under the lash as heedless as if he were coated in armour. The spurs possibly waken him ; but it is only for a moment. He springs forward a few paces as if he meant to begin in good earnest ; he lumbers away for forty or fifty yards, and then proceeds slower than ever, as if he thought this wonderful effort should entitle him to subsequent indulgence. It is better to journey on foot than to ride such an incorrigible sluggard. It requires constant exertion of hand and heel to keep him from standing stock still.

A sluggish horse cannot often be known till he is tried. But yet, in many cases, his disposition or indisposition to labour may be partly inferred before trial. The sluggard generally has a small sunken eye, called a pig or crow's eye ; the ears move lazily and seldom, and are pendant ; the nostrils are almost always small, muzzle fleshy, and the tail drooping. The horse pays little attention to surrounding objects ; he is slow in all his movements ; does not readily obey the bridle or the voice ; his action is slow, lingering, irregular ; and, when shown in hand,* the dealer, or his groom, takes care to apply the whip smartly at starting, and afterwards. Instead of running with his head before the groom or showman, he can hardly be induced to follow. These

* Shown in hand—that is, when the horse is led before the purchaser.

signs, however, are not infallible ; many sluggards have them not, and many active horses possess few or more of them. The trial on a strange road and without company, is the surest mode of ascertaining the point.

Sluggish horses are but little liable to disease ; they take very good care to save their legs ; and, not being so often heated as others, they are not so subject to coughs. They have keen appetites, and often suffer from eating too much after long fasting. Neither food nor medicine appears to have much power over the energy of the habitual sluggard. Whether well or ill-fed, their torpor remains much the same. Altogether a rank sluggard is a most intolerable nuisance.

Sluggishness may proceed from starvation, fatigue, or any other cause producing exhaustion ; but in these cases the evil is of temporary duration ; and its cause apparent.

The willing or active horse is easily known on the road, or in the field. He does his work as if it gave him pleasure. In the stable he appears to take notice of all that is going on. He must not be confounded with the timid horse, who frets and starts at every thing. The active and courageous horse looks and listens, but his manner is that of a calm observer of passing events, not of a startled coward. When shown in hand at the door, he starts cheerfully, obeys the bridle or the voice at once. On a journey he requires no punishment, he cheerfully responds to every hint of the driver or rider ; and, having once received the intimation, he proceeds onwards with unabated activity till he is required to stop. His ears are in constant

motion; his action bespeaks his spirit; it is precise, bold and free. These horses generally have a large eye, fine muzzle, large nostrils, small ears, thin skin, and clean limbs. They may be ill-formed otherwise. It is to be remembered, that good conformation merely gives the power to perform extraordinary exertion; the will to exert that power depends upon something else, which appears to be as necessary for great feats as the conformation.

This energy, or disposition to work, may be too great for many purposes. The racer, indeed, can never have more than enough; it is a combination of energy with good conformation that commands eminence on the turf; but in heavy draught horses, among whom, however, it is not very common, it may be dangerous or inconvenient. They are apt to be too quick, especially at starting; and, on long journeys, they wear themselves out by their haste. In double harness, their eagerness, when very great, destroys them. By doing the work of their companion, and their own besides, they injure themselves. They pull so hard that their mouth is always sore; they never carry flesh, and their legs soon fail. All this, however, only happens when the disposition to work is in excess. It is very common among young horses, and many become less eager, though still willing and cheerful labourers, as they arrive at maturity.

Horses in whom the desire of moving is excessive, are often guilty of running away—not from fear, but merely to gratify the pleasure they seem to experience in running. They are very emulous too; it matters little whether they be departing or returning; they are

the same in both cases ; they become excited and fretful if another horse is allowed to pass them. In the field they are mad ; with the tail and ears erect, the nostrils and eyes widely dilated, and bloody foam pouring from the mouth, and the perspiration streaming off their panting sides, they dash onwards despite of all obstacles. Such horses often proceed till they drop down ; and sometimes they die on the spot, from sheer exhaustion ; often under the weight of some shameless idiot, who disgraces humanity, both by his conduct to the nobler animal, and by the offensive exultation or coolness with which he speaks of its ruin.

Tricks of the Dealer.—An abominable practice prevails in the stables of some low, unprincipled horse-dealers. In order to confer some appearance of energy or activity upon the sluggish, the aged, the starved, or the diseased, it is the usual custom to submit the inoffensive animal to a severe flagellation, before he is exposed for sale. Some blackguard boy, or a man—possessing so little manliness that he feels no indignation when this disgraceful task is assigned him—is appointed to flog the horses until they become frantic between fear and pain. Trembling in every joint, the terrified animal is then brought to the door ; where, fearful of a further application of the lash, he bounds away at the slightest noise or touch. A few ignorant people may be deceived ; they may consider this agility as the result of vigour and natural activity ; but the terror expressed in the animal's countenance, and his unremitting bustling restlessness, inform all horsemen that some ruffian has been at work with the lash. The practice, therefore, base under all circumstances, is

doubly so when it becomes useless by ceasing to deceive. It is most common at auctions and markets, and is termed *firing*.

Besides being adopted to produce a temporary appearance of activity, of which everybody knows the cause, it is also resorted to for concealing lameness. The torture of the lash, or the mere expectation of its application will, for a time, make a lame horse go sound, or, at least, much sounder than he would otherwise ; and he is not only flogged unsparingly in the stable, but, when shown out before the bidders or buyer, he receives constant punishment from one who follows with a long whip, or from the man who shows him in hand. Let the purchaser be sure that there is some bad thing to conceal, when he observes this.

Gingering is another miserable and needless piece of folly, practised in almost all dealers' stables. It makes the horse carry his tail, not well, as they say, and perhaps think, but abominably ill, cocked 'up in the air like a mad bull's. It annoys the animal, but does him no further harm. It never, in any case, makes him appear more graceful in his deportment, nor adds energy to his action ; even if it did, every one knows the cause.

Action.

When a horseman speaks of action, he refers in general to the movements of the forefeet and legs during progression ; and, when alluding to those of the hind limbs, he says, *the action behind*. The word action is very rarely applied to any pace but the trot.

Action is of several kinds. There are the good and the bad ; the high and the low ; the extensive and the confined ; the precise and the disordered.

Good Action is extensive, high, and free ; the horse moves steadily, with ease and regularity : sets the foot firmly, and almost flatly, to the ground. He lifts it well up ; throws it directly forward, and downward, and seems to exercise the most perfect control over its motion while in the air. The bold, free, and extensive stride which characterizes good action, indicates energy, and is rarely seen but in horses that possess speed and ability to endure much fatigue. If not absolutely essential to the rider's safety, it affords him considerable assurance that, though the horse may fall, he will be much less likely to do so than another without such action.

Bad Action signifies any deviation from the good. It may be low, confined, or irregular.

Low Action is that in which the horse does not raise the foot sufficiently high. In stable language, he goes near the ground ; and he is sometimes termed a *daisy toper*, or *daisy cutter*. Such horses are usually regarded as being very apt to stumble, or trip ; and generally, but not invariably, they are so. Much depends upon the manner in which the foot meets the ground ; it should come down flatly, all at once. If the horse have low action, and dig the toe into the ground, wearing the shoe away very fast at the toe, he is particularly liable to fall. But a horse with low action merely, one who places the foot flatly, though he may often trip, may, notwithstanding, be quite safe ; he may frequently threaten to fall, but never actually

come down. Low action is common to all horses of the racing kind; but in other breeds it is very frequently combined with confined action.

High Action is the reverse of the last. It is synonymous with the phrases, *much knee action*, and *showy action*. It is a common opinion that the horse is less likely to stumble, in proportion to the height he lifts his feet. But this is an error. The action is sufficiently high if the foot clears all the ordinary inequalities and projections of the road. In French and Flemish horses it is generally too high, and at the same time confined. The feet are lifted well up, but they are set down in nearly the same place. The action is high, prancing and stately; but it is not the most useful, and it wears out the feet and limbs.

"In a hack," says Nimrod, "there is one essential quality, a *sine qua non*, which is, that he should go near the ground and yet go safe. Perhaps it may not be generally known, that a horse may go very near the ground, and never make a trip; and that another may lift his knee up almost to his nose, and yet be an arrant tumble-down. Were I to say which were the safest animal, in all its paces, that ever came under my observation, I should have no hesitation in saying it was a mare, that was in my own family upwards of fifteen years, that touched every stone which she passed her foot over, but never made a mistake in all that time. Lifting up the leg, or what the London people call *knee-up* action, has nothing to do with a horse going safe on the road. It is not on the taking up of the foot, but on the putting of it down that the safety of a horse's action depends.

" When I try a horse with the view of purchasing him for a hack, my trial is a short one. I get upon his back, and loosing his head, let him walk a hundred yards on a foot path. If nature has designed him to stick his toe into the ground, instead of putting it down quite flat, by which alone he can go safe, he will do so two or three times before he goes that distance. There are little undulations on a road of that description which are scarcely perceptible, and which, for that reason, will immediately detect this sort of action. If on the other hand, he walks smoothly over, without touching it, I try his other paces, and if I like them, I have no reason to fear his tumbling down."

Few horsemen will agree with Nimrod, when he contends that high action has *nothing* to do with safety. When travelling rapidly, a horse may be thrown down in consequence of the advanced foot being suddenly arrested by a fixed stone, which in a horse of higher action, would have been cleared. It may be said that the horse's foot cannot, like ours, be caught by a projection on the road, except at the moment it is about to receive the superincumbent weight, when the whole limb is straight, and has completed its advance forward. But it must be remembered that the foot always proceeds a little forward *after* the limb is straightened; and that, in this position, the toe comes perpendicularly against the projecting stone, and is arrested, while the body passes onwards, often before there is time to perform another stroke with the arrested foot.

It is, indeed, quite possible that a horse with low action may be safe as long as he puts the foot down flatly, but yet he would be still safer if his action were

higher. It is desirable that he clear the ground. It is a sad annoyance to the most of riders to have a horse tripping, and constantly threatening to fall, even to those who know he will not come down.

Extensive Action is that in which the horse takes a long darting stride ; he throws the foot well forward, and fearlessly. In the stables it is sometimes called *free* or *pitching* action. It is one of the ingredients of good action ; and is rarely seen in horses that go very close to the ground. It requires great depth of shoulder, a muscular fore-arm, a flat shank, and a good deal of energy.

Confined Action is that in which the horse takes a short step. It may be high though confined, but in general, low and confined action go together. It is very common in horses with low withers, upright, fleshy shoulders, round chest, and short back. They are unpleasant to ride, not over sure-footed, and rarely fast. Yet they endure much work, such as they are fit for.

Precise Action is desirable in all horses, but essential in the roadster. It consists in exercising the most perfect control over the feet while they are in the air. The action may be high and extensive, yet not precise. Few young, and no sluggish horses have it. It cannot apparently exist without considerable practice, and some energy. It may be known in the dark. The trot of a horse with precise action has something musical in it when he is passing briskly over the stones. These horses are generally safe, active, and willing ; they have good fore-legs, well-spread quarters, and are pleasant to ride. During frosty weather their dexterity in keeping themselves together, is admirable.

Disordered Action.—The horse may be careless, sluggish, or precipitate in his mode of trotting. He takes now a quick step, now a slow one, or he breaks from one pace to another without going long at either. His movements are destitute of regularity. The limbs wander hither and thither; they fly apart; they cross or strike each other; they appear not as if all guided by one controlling agent, but each by its own, without any reference to the rest. The action, instead of being precise and graceful, is unharmonious and clownish. All uneducated horses, with hardly a single exception, have this shuffling, disorderly sort of action. All improve by practice; but some improve very slowly, and a few there are that never attain precision in their movements, whether they be fast or slow. Badly-turned fore-legs, or legs ill-attached to the body, generally confer this defective action. Such horses are never pleasant to ride; they frequently strike their feet against the legs; very few stand a long journey; and even at the end of a short stage they become leg-weary. They are fit only for slow work.

Safety in action has already been hinted at; but I have something more to add. It does not altogether depend upon the height to which a horse lifts his foot, nor yet upon the manner in which he sets it down. Many horses that have very good action upon the high road, can hardly be trusted upon a rough, stony, by-way; while others, with no apparent superiority in action, are perfectly safe; they never trip, go where they may. A careless or inexperienced horseman may not have observed this, but it is quite true. The difference is soon explained: the one horse pays much

attention to his path, the other none at all. The sure-footed Highland pony never lays down a foot, on rough or strange ground, without previously seeing where he is going to put it. He desires to proceed cautiously, and he selects a resting-place for each foot with much wisdom. He performs his work like a good and careful servant; and it is no small matter that withdraws his eye from the ruts and the stones, the firm and the loose places, with which his path abounds. It is long ere a foolish rider can convince him that it is right to run helter-skelter over a bad road. Even when urged beyond all forbearance, he still continues to think a little for himself; and he exercises his judgment in haste. His action is not like that of a machine: he takes a short step or a long one as the case requires; makes little leaps, and raises his foot sufficiently high; but no higher than the obstacle requires. He accommodates his action to the road; and he has probably learned to do this among the hills in which he was reared: repeated falls and bruises have taught him care. This accommodating sort of action is most common in ponies; but many horses possess a large share of it.

The heedless horse is a different sort of animal. On the smooth turf, in the hunting field, or even on the turnpike road, he may be unexceptionable; but on a very bad highway, in winter, he may be altogether unworthy of trust. He keeps gazing at the sky, or staring about him, when he should be picking out his steps; as if he thought the state of the road were the rider's affair, not his, he gives it no notice. His foot rolls on huge howlers, or he sinks fetlock-deep in pools

of mud, when the slightest exertion might avoid them ; he stumbles every moment, as if he would actually fall. But it is all the same to him ; he blunders through it without learning to do better the next time. Such horses, under these circumstances, might almost dispense with their eyesight, for they make no use of it. They can only be known by a trial on irregular ground.

Courage—Timidity—Shying.

A horse that responds readily to the whip or spur, is said to have high courage ; but this is more the characteristic of a timid than of a bold horse. By courage is here meant fearlessness of noises and objects. This is a quality of some importance in all horses. It is not to be confounded with the senseless inanimation of the sluggard ; he fears nothing, because he feels nothing. The bold horse is more easily pained ; he has more energy ; his courage is derived from his sagacity. While a coward starts and boggles at every new or unusual object, suspicious of all, and eager to fly, the fearless horse shrinks only from that which has previously injured him, and he appears not to expect evil where he has not experienced any. He pleasantly pursues his journey, observing the different objects on his way, as if curious to know something about them ; but he starts not, until injury is actually inflicted. He shows no hesitation about going into strange places ; and when he encounters ill-usage, is attacked by dogs, &c., he revenges himself, or resists, rather than flies.

Such horses have some confidence in their power, and, when very bold, are often dangerous. When roused to resistance or revenge, by a sense of oppression; their conduct is terrible: It is only a bold and skilful horseman that dare take any liberties with them. The timid or inexpert are in constant danger from a very bold horse; and such persons often render them vicious. A single complete victory over their groom or rider may render them unmanageable for life.

A Timid Horse, however, is a more dangerous animal than a bold one, even after he has learned to resist his master's authority.. He is alarmed and agitated when surrounded by many objects.. Strange sounds always excite apprehension: Should any accident befall him when in harness, he struggles incessantly to get free, and before assistance can be rendered, he may do himself, and all around, serious injury. Generally he is suspicious of strangers; and the most of timid horses are troublesome to shoe. In all cases they must be approached without noise, and without any threat of punishment. To be manageable, they must be treated with gentleness.

But the greatest faults of a timid horse, are his propensities to run away, and to boggle at objects on the road. If he be rather lazy; as well as timid, he will merely *shy*—that is to say, he will slacken his pace as he approaches some unusual or threatening object, and perhaps, as he comes nearer, he will stop; and refuse to proceed any farther, or he will attempt to turn and retrac his steps; or, if impelled onwards, he will suddenly bound to the opposite side of the road. In this way an indifferent rider is often unseated, or a gig-

launched into the ditch. But if the horse be active, fond of going, or on the road home, he is very apt to run off, as soon as he has stolen past the terrifying object. These faults often produce serious accidents. The purchaser can hardly ascertain whether the horse be free from them or not, until he has obtained a trial. It requires an expert, cool, and sensible man to ride a timid horse, or to drive him in single harness.

Shying is not always the consequence of timidity; it often arises from defective vision. Both eyes may be so diseased, that objects seen by either, are imperfectly seen, and produce alarm from their apparent deformity. But when one eye alone is affected, the horse shys only at objects which are presented to the diseased eye. Many shying horses, whether the fault arises from want of courage or from imperfect vision, abandon the practice as they get older; it may be greatly corrected by proper treatment.

Vice.

Definition.—The word vice is used with much latitude among many horsemen. The majority seem to regard it as applicable only to *those actions which arise from a perverse or mischievous disposition—these in which the horse opposes his own will to that of his master, or those in which he purposely attempts to injure his companions, or the persons about him.* Others, however, mean something more. They include, not only such undoubted vices, as biting and kicking, but also some peculiarities of deportment and habit;

such as stumbling, shying, crib-biting, weaving, &c. In general, however, faults of this kind are termed habits, or merely faults. It is important that the word should have the same signification by all parties: it plays an important part in the most of horse-dealing transactions; and much difference of opinion and litigation arise, which could have no existence, were the word clearly defined, and understood in the same sense by all who use it.

The kinds of vice are various, and most of them too well known to require any description in a work of this kind. Biting and kicking are the most common and, if not quite, are very nearly the most dangerous. They very often go together; they may be the result of education, or of a bold determined temper. When occurring in a fearless horse, they are peculiarly dangerous, and most difficult to cure; but, when the horse is learned these tricks, as he often is, by an idle and foolish groom, he is more easily managed, and oftener cured than the other. Those vices which consist in disobedience are most common in bold or lazy horses. The most of horses show their vice only under particular circumstances, and at other times they are perfectly quiet. For example, some resist grooming, others shoeing, and others bite or strike none but strangers. They may be quite docile in all other respects. But there are some who are vicious and dangerous as often as they have it in their power to inflict an injury. Though they are generally most hostile to strangers, yet they spare not even those with whom they are best acquainted. A horse of this kind is soon discovered.

A stable examination is perhaps the best for dis-

covering the vices of kicking and biting. The others can only be detected subsequent to sale, when the horse is placed under the influence of the circumstances which make him exhibit them. Some dealers are not at all willing to admit the purchaser within the stable; but it is a point upon which he should insist, and, when refused, he should go elsewhere. Mystery is one of the signs of imposition.

Signs of vice.—Enter the stable with the man appointed to show the horse; observe the manner in which he approaches the animal, dusts him over, and brings him to the door. If it be a dangerous brute, the groom will speak loud, and in a threatening tone; he will approach cautiously, and avoid stepping into the stall, until the horse is fairly placed on one side; and then, keeping at a respectable distance, by making wide circuits, he will slip up the other side, taking long and rapid strides, and keeping his eye turned upon the horse's heels. Sometimes the horse suddenly turns his quarters upon the man, just at the moment he has reached the head of the stall. At other times he lashes fairly out, showing at once his bad purpose, and his determination to execute it. The horse may exhibit nothing of this kind; but he must be watched a little farther. Let the groom take off the clothes, dust over the body, comb out the mane and tail; and, while this is going on, observe the conduct of both the man and the horse. During the process, some inference may be drawn as to the horse's disposition to be dressed. The purchaser may also make a request to see the hind and the fore feet; and the manner in which the horse permits the groom to lift them, will, to a

certain extent, show whether he is vicious while being shod, and whether or not he will permit his legs and heels to be groomed.

If the horse be a biter, his head will be tied fast and short to the hay-rack, in such a manner that he may have little command over it. Perhaps the groom will provide himself with a stick before he enters the stall. While unclothing the horse, he will keep his eye on the head, or he will keep out of its reach. When the horse is bridled, the man will seize the reins close to the bit, and he will hold off at arm's length.

These signs of vice are not infallible. A hahbling or cowardly groom will often hawl and swear, and stand off when there is nothing to fear. The head is often tied to the hay-rack, merely to prevent the horse from lying down ; and some horses aim as if they were going to bite or strike, in mere play, when they have no intention of inflicting injury. There are one or two other signs.

Some consider the eyes and ears as affording some indication of the horse's docility. Very many vicious horses have a full, outstanding eye, with a considerable portion of white visible ; and, without turning the head, the eye is directed backward, ready to take aim, while the one hind-leg supports all the weight, and the other is prepared to fly out at an instant's notice. The ears are often laid on the neck, in which position they confer a sullen, scowling appearance on the countenance. These signs are less certain than the others ; they very often indicate the existence of vice, but there are many cases in which they do not. There are few vicious horses, however, that do not exhibit some of them. The only

way to be certain is to place the horse amid all the circumstances under which vice is likely to be shown. This can seldom be done; but, when opportunity offers, it should not be neglected; and though a complete trial may not be obtained, yet a partial one is better than none.

How hidden.—It is said that vice may, for a time, be concealed by administering drugs. I have heard of several that are said to be given for producing temporary docility; but, with the exception of opium, given fasting, none of them appear calculated to answer the purpose. It is questionable if this will do it; and it is certain that there are others more effectual. But the dealers are not likely to become soon acquainted with them. It is more probable that they employ starvation and fatigue rather than drugs.

A Warranty against vice should not be neglected. If the horse be worth warranting sound, he should also be worth *warranting free from vice*. A vicious horse is often a worse bargain than an unsound one; but without his docility be guaranteed, he cannot be returned. Even with the written assurance, it is often a very difficult matter to return a horse for vice, because it is not easily proved that he was vicious before he was sold. It is not sufficient to show that he bites, or kicks, or refuses to draw; it must also be shown that he possessed these vices when he was the property of the seller. Many horses become vicious, unruly, or obstinate, when they pass into strange bands; but for this no vendor can be justly liable; and the law so considers it. Some horses appear vicious at first, but come to their work and docility, as they become better ac-

quainted with their new habitation, and the strangers about them. This is virtue, not vice ; but I know not how they can be distinguished, except by the lapse of time, and the effect of kind treatment.

Education.

By education is here meant the degree to which the horse has been trained to work. Besides exerting a material influence upon the virtues and vices already enumerated, it ought to bestow dexterity at work, implicit and ready obedience. There is as much difference among horses in point of expertness as among men. In either, one will perform his task in an awkward slovenly manner, often going wrong, and requiring constant watching ; while another quickly accommodates himself to varying circumstances, easily understands his master, and seems to distinguish between right and wrong, after he has once seen the difference. Among draught horses this dissimilarity is easily perceived by watching a few as they pass, heavily laden, over a very rough or crowded road. The well-taught horse selects his path, avoids the worst parts of the road, keeps his own side in passing others, and seems to experience little inconvenience from the shakes and jolts which continually threaten to throw the unbroken, awkward horse off his feet. This latter animal requires to be constantly led ; he has not yet learned to choose his own road, or to understand the commands of his driver.* In the saddle horse, education,

* In Scotland cart horses are chiefly guided by the driver's

besides altering the action, and thus rendering him more expert at his work, teaches him to obey the bridle, the spurs, and the whip. They that have been much among horses know the value of a *good mouth*—that is, of a mouth not too tender, but sufficiently callous to endure a pull, and at the same time to be obedient. Much of the obedience, however, depends upon the practice the horse has had, and his disposition to comply with the rider's will. Before the mouth is formed, before the horse has been much accustomed to the bridle, he is awkward ; he turns slowly, and rather as if he desired to proceed onwards. The neck yields ; and, instead of proceeding to the right or left, as the rein is pulled, the horse merely turns his head. He has not yet learned to understand what his rider wants ; and this of itself is a sign that the horse is not thoroughly broke, and it is probable that he is susceptible of much improvement. In regard to the education of a hunter, it need only be observed here, that the field is the only place to ascertain how far he has advanced in leaping, &c."

The education of a horse exerts considerable influence on his price. Until he has been broke it is almost impossible to say whether he will turn out well or ill, and even at the best there is the expense of his breaking and keep for several weeks, to be added to the original price, which, upon this account, is lower. There is no animal, however, more easily taught than the horse. In general he is very willing to obey as soon as he understands what is required ; and after the first few voice ; in England I believe the whip is more generally used.

lessons, he just needs a little indulgence and patience, until practice shall have rendered him expert.

Blemishes.

Definition.—By a blemish is meant some unseemly deviation from the original condition of a part, by which the horse's appearance is more or less injured, but not his ability to work. Such blemishes as exist in the skin only, consist chiefly in the want of the hair, and are generally produced by burns, blisters, firing, or wounds. Those excrescences, termed warts or angleberries, sometimes numerous and sometimes solitary, are merely blemishes. They offend the eye, but seldom make the horse less fit for work than if he had them not ; when they do, he is, or ought to be, regarded as unsound. The purchaser, however, should not, in general, consider an angleberried horse a desirable animal. Many say these warts are signs of durability, and of a good constitution, but that is questionable ; and in many cases they become more than blemishes ; they do not always remain stationary, or of the same number ; very often they increase in size, and new ones make their appearance from time to time. They require to be removed every now and then, and often the horse has to be thrown off work for a few days, every time he is operated upon. This is attended with expense and loss of time.

No part is oftener blemished than the knee ; it is frequently injured by falls. Among ponies and the better kinds of saddle horses, this blemish materially

influences the price. The horse may be as fit for work as before, yet few can think so ; and the blemish is a serious objection with all. A good-sized horse may bring a tolerable price for stage-coach work, but a pony, thus blemished, loses his value much more considerably. He is only fit for the saddle ; and they that are willing or able to pay a full price for a pony will not buy one with blemished knees.

Habits.

By habits are meant, unusual and harmless peculiarities in conduct, such as weaving, pawing, tearing off the clothes, slipping the collar, wasting the hay, rolling in the stall, &c. A more extensive signification is sometimes given to this word, by including vicious habits, but it is certainly most advisable to adopt the former more limited meaning. The words vice and habit are by no means synonymous : the latter may indeed include many vicious propensities as well as harmless, but it must be qualified by an adjective according to circumstances ; it must not include all ; otherwise the word habit must be substituted for vice in the warranty.

None of these habits, or, if it must be so written, these *harmless* habits, are likely to be discovered before purchasing, unless a trial is obtained. The petty inconveniences arising from them may, in a great many cases, be remedied or prevented as soon as they are detected. The most of the annoyance which they produce is experienced before they are known to exist.

The habit, for example, of breaking loose during the night, may occur once or twice, and be followed by some unpleasant consequences ; but as soon as it is known that the horse is in the habit of doing so, he can be prevented. The same may be said of several other habits ; none of them, in general, make the horse liable to be returned, unless, as sometimes happens, he be foolishly *warranted free from all faults.*

Faults.

By faults are meant every thing objectionable, whether existing in shape, colour, age, temper, action, or any other quality. The word may be so used as to mean nothing, or to include every thing. It should never appear in a warrantice. There is no horse to which exception may not be taken, in some respect, however faultless he may be in others.

Soundness.

Of all the words used among horsemen there is none more vaguely defined than that of soundness. Very few attach the same meaning to it. Some consider a horse sound if he be free from rottenness, lameness, broken wind ; others only require that he be free from lameness ; but, a few consider a sound horse and a perfect one as the same animal. According to them, he is unsound if he have a fault of any kind, no matter in what that fault consists. Legal and veterinary

authorities have endeavoured to define a sound horse with more or less success ; but after looking over all that they have said or written upon the subject, it is vexatious to meet with so much want of unanimity. That which one establishes another overthrows ; that which is received as good sound doctrine at one time, is rank heresy at another. Lawyers, indeed, ignorant, as they generally are, of horse affairs, can hardly be expected to assist us here, and they should not attempt it. The veterinarian is the fittest person to describe soundness in horses ; and if, in doing so, he should commit errors, yet those errors are not likely to be so numerous or so important as if the task were undertaken by a stranger to the structure, to the powers, and the susceptibilities of the object he describes—the horse.

All the difficulty of definition, in this case, arises, partly from the number of circumstances which constitute soundness, partly from the difficulty of expressing these circumstances in a very few words, and partly, too, from the several meanings attached to each word employed in the definition—which is nothing but a short description.

Definition of Soundness.—A horse is sound when he has no *disease* about him, nor any *effect* of disease, that renders, or is likely at any future period, to render him less useful than he would be without it.

Definition of Disease.—Any change in the condition of a part, attended with, or productive of, pain, danger, alteration of structure, deranged function, or inconvenience of any kind, is a disease. I cannot at present think of any deviation from the healthy state of a part,

that is not included in this definition.. Probably there is no disease, and certainly there are very few, that have not some of the characteristics embraced in the definition. Non-professional persons, in general, and a few veterinarians, do not, however, use the word disease in such a comprehensive sense. The former seldom use it but to signify some general loss of health, some fever or dangerous disease; while a few, perhaps the majority, of veterinarians, apply it only to some *active* process, or to something that is proceeding from bad to worse, or to something that requires medical treatment to avert, mitigate, or remove it. By these gentlemen, the diseased process once arrested, all that remains is termed the effect of disease.* This is not the place to discuss the propriety of this distinction. It need only be observed that there appears to be no occasion for adopting it, and that, if it is really useful, some general term, besides that of *effect*, ought to be introduced, to denote that state of parts in which they are neither sound nor diseased. The above definition of soundness, however, is purposely constructed to embrace both the confined and the limited meaning of the word disease, as used by professional men; and, as regards its very limited meaning among non-medical people, they must just consent, in this case, at least, to consider it as denoting all alteration for the worse, in the structure or function of a part, whether the change

* Thus, inflammation of the eye is a disease; it may proceed to the total destruction of that organ; but after the inflammation is subdued, they will not have it said that there is any disease remaining; it is only the effects of the disease. But the horse may be stone blind.

be trivial or serious. This extensive signification will not at all render the definition of soundness more difficult of application; for it is expressly stipulated that the disease shall be such that it is not likely to render the horse less useful. Its *likelihood* must be determined by the examinant.

A horse, then, may have disease about him, and yet be sound. He may at least have the effects of disease; he may have splent, a bony or callous tumour, a wart, a speck on the eye, a scar any where; he may be blemished all over, and still be a sound horse.

Examination of a horse for soundness, is rather an examination for unsoundness; we judge of his soundness by the non-existence of unsoundness. It is only negative evidence, but it is all we can ever have. He may have some unsoundness about him which may not be discovered even after he has been carefully inspected by a professional man; and, knowing this, few veterinarians will grant a certificate, positively stating that the horse is sound. Few go farther than certifying that they have found no unsoundness, and it is far enough. In some places, and in Ireland, I believe, more than any other, it is the custom to have a horse examined by a veterinary surgeon, either immediately before or aftersale; and it is a very good custom; the seller and buyer generally pay the expense between them, if the horse be sound; the seller paying the whole if he is not. But it is an error to suppose that the horse, once examined in this way, and passed as sound, cannot be returned if he should subsequently be discovered to be unsound. The law does not so consider it; and it would be a piece of great folly if it

did : for there are some unsoundness, such as staggers, that cannot be discovered at such a cursory examination as the veterinarian is compelled to make, and the purchaser may have the horse in his possession for several days, weeks, or even months, before any thing occurs to excite suspicion.

The professional charge for examining a horse for soundness, and granting a certificate, if required, is ten shillings-and-sixpence—supposing the borse to be brought to the veterinarian's place of business.

Unsoundness.

A definition of unsoundness is hardly necessary after what has just been said ; yet, considering the importance of the subject, it may be better to leave no part in doubt.

A horse is unsound when he has about him any disease, or any effect of disease, that renders him at present less useful than he would be without it, or is likely to do so at any future period. Or, in other words :—

To be unsound, a horse must have a disease, or some effect of disease, and it must be of such a character that, according to the opinion of a qualified judge, it does or will make him less useful than he would be without it. It is not necessary to repeat that which has been said on the word disease.

By legal authorities there has been some difference of opinion as to whether a curable disease or temporary injury renders the horse unsound. In a cause

decided before Chief Justice Eyre, that learned Judge, when addressing the jury, said, "A horse labouring under a temporary injury or hurt, which is capable of being speedily cured or removed, is not for that an unsound horse, within the meaning of the warranty." But this doctrine is hardly admissible in practice. In very many cases of injury, or disease, it is impossible to say what will be the result; whether it will be partly or wholly cured, or not at all, and the purchaser must thus run great risks. Subsequently, however, Lord Ellenborough decided that—"To constitute unsoundness, it is not essential that the infirmity be of a permanent nature; it is sufficient if it render the animal for the time unfit for service, as, for instance, a cough, which, for the present, renders it less useful, and may ultimately prove fatal." There is some ambiguity in this doctrine, introduced by speaking of the present. There are many diseases with which a horse may be fit for present use, and yet of such a nature that they may ultimately render him worthless, or even destroy him. A horse with spavin, or ringbone, or mange, may do his work well enough for a time, but he fails sooner or later, and it is well enough known that many glandered horses work for an indefinite period before their vigour fails. Lord Tenterden, in a recent lawsuit, has given it as his opinion, that "a horse that cannot go through the same labour as before, the existence of the defect or blemish in dispute, and with the same degree of facility and safety, is unsound." From such examples it will be seen that these great lawyers know too little of the horse, too little of his diseases, to construct any thing like a firm and useful

definition either of soundness or unsoundness. Many causes, however, will likely be yet decided by such as they have made ; but it must be confessed that, especially in the English courts, much influence is now yielded to the evidence of the veterinarian.

Kinds of Unsoundness.—For several reasons, it would be very desirable to have some classification of unsoundnesses. The most useful would be that which would be founded upon the degree to which they influence the horse's value. We might arrange them into those which depreciate him by a tenth, a fifteenth, a twentieth, and so on ; but many years must elapse, and much must be added to veterinary knowledge, before any useful classification of this kind can be made. It need not be attempted until we have a complete list of all the causes of unsoundness. And even after this is done, the most difficult part of the task will still remain ; that is the task of arranging and defining all the different degrees in which each cause of unsoundness may exist. Dealers, indeed, talk of soundness of wind and soundness of limb ; or, in other words, they say a horse is sound in wind and limb. And a veterinarian, to whom we are much indebted* speaks of unsoundness in constitution, and unsoundness in action ; but any classification of this kind is quite useless. Soundness of constitution, when the phrase is properly applied, or susceptible of any meaning at all, can only mean that state of the body in which there may be disease, but the disease is not of such a nature as to impair the powers and susceptibilities of

* Mr. W. Percival, the author of several valuable veterinary works.

organs whose health is essential to vigour or comfort; in other words, unsoundness in constitution just means want of general health; and this, though the consequence of many unsoundnesses, is such, that few horses are, or can be offered for sale, while their general health is in a precarious condition. Unsoundness in action can mean nothing but difficulty or pain in progression, the result of disease. These two kinds of unsoundnesses do not embrace all; and so far the classification is defective. Every other, founded upon this, or similar grounds, must always be useless.

Examination of a horse for unsoundness.—This process is, in almost all cases, conducted in a very slovenly manner. Even among professional men, a great many go about it with less regularity and dexterity, than might be expected. Horse-dealers are a great deal worse; they know more about the shape than about unsoundness; but private purchasers set all rules and system at defiance: they examine the horse, indeed, but they do not know very well what they examine him for. The majority look only for those unsoundnesses which they have had some cause to remember: one man has previously had to do with a groggy horse, and he is careful to look at the feet; another has been sadly annoyed with a spavined horse, and he is very suspicious about the hocks of his intended purchase: others yet, that have had more experience of these affairs, may examine the animal's wind, his eyes, his feet, back tendons, and hocks; but not one in ten thousand examines a horse for all the apparent causes of unsoundness, or knows the half of them, even when before his eyes. More than once,

a dealer, who is supposed to know these matters pretty well, has been seen to purchase a horse, warranted sound, that had a cause of unsoundness, which could be discerned at ten yards from the horse's side.

To inspect a horse with care, the examinant should always begin at a certain point, and proceed step by step, till he has scrutinized every part in which disease is usually found. To do this well, it is necessary that he have some tact in going about horses ; he should be bold, but at the same time prudent. In minutely examining a strange horse, there is always some risk of injury ; but the risk is materially increased if the examinator be timid, or awkward. This process, too, requires the eye of a horseman—of one that has long been familiar with the healthy appearance of parts. Practice produces expertness.

The following table is a mere list of the parts to be examined, with the names of the diseases to which each part is liable. It may be useful as bringing these things into one point of view, and as indicating the order in which the examinant is to proceed. It mentions certain faults that do not constitute unsoundness, but which are, or ought to be, noticed, as denoting some circumstance that diminishes the horse's value—such as windgalls, blemishes on the knees, &c. The exposition, however, which follows the table, will give some explanation of the nature of each fault, whether an unsoundness or a blemish; it also states the signs, by which the fault may be discovered, and in some cases mentions the extent to which it interferes with the horse's utility.

List of Parts to be examined, and for what.

The Eyes are to be examined for specks, inflammation, cataract, and amaurosis.

The Nostrils, for tumours, glanders, gleet, and the discharge which accompanies a common cold.

The Glands, between the branches of the lower jaw, for enlargement.

The Throat, for marks of the crib-biting strap, and the tenderness of a common cold.

The Teeth, for the age and marks of crib-biting.

The Vein of the neck, on either side, for obliteration.

The Withers, for bruises.

The Shoulder, for tumours, and marks of setons, blisters, &c.

The Counter, for similar marks.

The Elbow, for tumours.

The Knees, for blemishes, and stiffness of these joints.

The Shank, for speedy cut, splent, and sprain.

The Fetlocks, for enlargement, windgalls, cutting, and unnerving.

The Pasterns, for ringbone.

The Foot, for sidebones, sanderack, contraction, difference in size, thrush, corns, flat soles, and founder.

The Shoe, for signs of cutting.

The Sides, behind the elbows, for marks of rowels, blisters, &c.

The Haunch-bones, for fracture.

The Stifle, for enlargement.

The Groin, for rupture.

The Testicles, for enlargement.

The Hock, for capped-hock, curb, thoroughpin, bone-spavin, and bog-spavin.

The Action, for lameness, groggyness, stringhalt, palsy, shivering, and staggers.

The Breathing, for broken-wind, different kinds of roaring, and grunting. Lastly,

In the Stable, the horse has to be examined, or rather watched, for vice, crib-biting, windsucking, and chronic cough.

The Causes of Unsoundness.

The Eyes.—It is not every person who can examine the eyes. To examine them well requires some anatomical knowledge of their structure. Disease, indeed, often exists in such a form, as to be evident to all ; but it also often exists when a non-professional man cannot see it. Any horseman can detect absolute blindness ; but, in the most of cases, there are disease and defective vision long before the sight is quite lost.

Specks on the transparent portion of the eye, are generally the result of external injury. When very small, and near the circumference, they produce no apparent inconvenience, and do not constitute unsoundness. When large, or placed near, or on, the centre, they generally produce disordered vision, and make the horse shy. In such cases he is unsound. These specks are small white spots. They are seen at once, and are solitary. There is seldom more than one. In different places, a spot of this kind is termed a *feather*, a *pin*, a *web*, a *slough*.

Inflammation of the Eye is indicated by redness, weeping, partial or complete opacity, and irritability. The eye of the horse is liable to two kinds of inflammation. One is the result of external injury—such as a blow, or the introduction of some irritating matter; and this usually disappears altogether, by proper treatment, or it only leaves a speck. The other kind arises from some unknown cause, and usually ends in cataract, and that in blindness. It is termed *specific ophthalmia*. It appears all at once. The eye becomes slightly, or intensely, inflamed; and, after remaining so for a few days, the inflammation subsides; the weeping ceases, the redness goes away, the eye clears up, and the horse keeps it open. After a time, however, the eye is attacked in the same way, and perhaps recovers its brilliancy and strength as before; but at last these attacks lay the foundation for another disease, and the horse quickly or slowly loses the use of the eye altogether. Now, the horse may be sold between these attacks of inflammation; and, knowing the nature of the disease, it is important to ascertain whether he has had it or not. In a few cases, the eye recovers its original healthy appearance so completely before it is again attacked, that it is impossible to say that the disease has ever existed; but in the majority of cases, the temporary recovery is not so complete. For days, weeks, or possibly months, after the worst of the inflammation has subsided, the eye remains weak; it appears smaller than the other; the lids are not fully opened; the eye cannot bear the same degree of light; the transparent external part, has not its original brilliancy; it is somewhat muddy, and sometimes it smokes, and has a

greyish colour. The pupil,* too, is small, indicating a diseased susceptibility to light.

An attack of specific ophthalmia renders the horse unsound. But there may be some difficulty in proving that he had the disease before sale. It may appear in the course of a single night, and the professional man will be unable to say whether it is the first, or a subsequent attack, or whether the horse had it twenty-four hours before. In that case there can be no proof but the evidence of persons who have known the horse for some time back. The eyes, indeed, should be well examined on the day of sale. This specific inflammation of the eye is sometimes termed moon-blindness, from its tendency to come and go at certain periods.

Cataract.—This consists in the partial or complete opacity of a deep-seated part of the eye, which was originally transparent. At first, it is a small, white, pearly-like spot, situate, not on the surface; but towards the bottom of the eye. It increases in size, slowly or rapidly, according to circumstances, until it completely excludes the light. When it has proceeded thus far, it is easily recognised; it is then seen like a white ball, placed very near the centre of the eye. The external surface may be perfectly transparent, and free from the slightest blemish, but on looking deeper, there is the opaque ball plain enough, filling up the space called the pupillary opening. When the eye is exposed to a strong light, this opaque body often

* The pupil is that bluish oblong opening, surrounded by a dark hazel-coloured margin, which, in the wall-eyed horse, is white, and in men, black, blue or grey.

appears to grow less ; but this diminution is not real : the cataract is partially hidden by the concentration of that dark curtain called the iris, which surrounds and hides it. Upon taking the horse into the shade, the cataract becomes more visible. When the cataract is very small, it may escape the observation of a non-professional man. In all cases, it is best seen in the shade. The horse's head should be so placed, that a moderate light will fall upon the eye of the horse, and very little upon those of the examinant. If there be no back or side windows, the eyes may be examined very well just as the horse comes out at the stable-door ; his head should be within, while the examinant stands in the doorway. This is the place usually chosen. By bringing the horse more or less forward, the quantity of light thrown on his eye can be regulated, and it all comes in the most favourable direction. When there is too much light, the pupil is contracted, and a full view of the interior of the eye cannot be obtained. When there are side or back lights, they embarrass the examinant ; the rays run between his eyes and the horse's, and prevent him from seeing distinctly.

Care must be taken to distinguish between a cataract and a mere reflection. Any white body opposed to the eye—such as a white wall, a white hat, vest, or neck-cloth—may produce a mark, having much resemblance to a cataract. This may be guarded against by holding some black body, as the crown of a black hat, against the eye, and observing, at the same time, if the mark disappears, which it will, if merely a reflection.

Cataract, in all its stages, whether large or small, whether in both eyes, or only one, renders a horse

unsound. It is possible that he may not become blind from it, but in the far greatest number of cases, the disease proceeds till it destroys vision.

It is not known how soon a cataract may form, so as to become visible; and among professional men there is some doubt whether it ever appears without the pre-existence of specific ophthalmia. Until lately, it was supposed that the latter was the only cause of the former, and that it was never cured: but later investigations have thrown some doubt upon the truth of both of those propositions. It is stated by some English practitioners, that cataract may form without any previous attack of specific ophthalmia, and that it may cure itself; but the subject requires further investigation. In the meantime, it is just to consider a cataract as constituting unsoundness; the probability that it will sooner or later destroy the eye, is not to be put in opposition to the possibility that it may not.

Amaurosis—sometimes termed *gutta serena*—consists in the permanent loss of vision in one or both eyes, without any apparent disorganization in the structure of those organs. The borseman may discover that the animal is quite or nearly blind, but, he will see nothing wrong with the eyes. Yet the professional man perceives that there is something peculiar about them. The pupillary openings are very large; they do not vary in size as they do in health, according to the intensity of light; the eyes have a greenish tinge, and they do not aim at any object. When a man is looking towards several objects, it is not difficult to perceive which of them his eyes are particularly directed upon. There is something in the

eye itself that tells us what it is looking at ; and this peculiarity, which I cannot describe, exists in the eye of the horse, as well as in that of man. For the sake of brevity, it may be called the aim of the eye. In the blind horse it is wanting ; hence, I think, has arisen the term glass-eye. This disease may come on in an instant ; a fall, or a blow on the head, may produce it at once : often it approaches more gradually ; but from a mere examination of the eye, without any previous knowledge of the horse, it is impossible to say whether he has had the disease two days or two years.

The blind horse generally lifts his feet high, sets them down as if he would feel the ground, before he would throw his weight upon it ; and he obeys the bridle very readily. A person not much acquainted with horses may discover complete blindness at once, by leading the horse directly up to some obstacle, and observing if he stops, or attempts to go over, or avoid it.

Blindness, whether it be the blindness of cataract or of accident, and whether existing in one eye, or both, is allowed by all to be an unsoundness. The profession and the public appear to regard this as a thing settled beyond all doubt, and it is not for me to say any thing against it.

But, for many purposes, a blind horse may answer almost as well as another. In stage coaches, there are many who do their work perfectly well. Then, there are horses blind of only one eye, that are little the worse, for certain kinds of work. They have even been seen in the hunting field, taking their leaps with as much precision as if both eyes were entire. The purchaser, therefore, may consider whether a good

horse at a low price, may not suit his purpose, though blind of an eye, almost as well as another. A blind horse is not safe at night, when the rider or driver cannot see the road very well ; he cannot be turned to grass, and, under all circumstances, he is more liable to accidents.

The Nostrils are to be examined for tumours in them ; for the symptoms of glanders, for gleet, and for the discharge which accompanies a cold—or as it is more properly called catarrh.

A *Tumour*, in surgery termed a polypus, is sometimes found in one of the nostrils. When small and seated high up, it may escape detection, but when larger, it is discovered by some difficulty of breathing, and by comparing the volume of air which escapes from the one nostril with that of the other. By shutting, first one nostril, and then the other, so as to compel the horse to breathe through only one at a time, it will be seen whether or not these passages are clear. Sometimes a polypus may be seen by the eye upon looking into the nose. However small, a tumour in such a place always constitutes unsoundness ; it increases in size till it completely blocks up the passage ; and if not removable, it ultimately renders the horse quite useless. These tumours however are not often met with.

Glanders.—Comparatively few glandered horses are offered for sale. The principal signs are, discharge from, and ulcers in the nostrils, swellings under the jaw. The discharge is oftener from one than from both ; it

is generally thick, white, or yellowish, and very adhesive. This discharge may be hidden. The seller may manage to keep the nostrils clean by the frequent application of a handkerchief; or he may give the horse a brushing gallop, to make him clear his nostrils, and then inject some astringent wash to restrain the discharge; or, after doing these things, he may thrust a piece of sponge up the affected nostril. When, however any of these abominable tricks have been played, there is always some abrasion or ulceration of the red lining, particularly on that part which covers the partition between the nostrils. This may be seen by bringing the horse's head to the sun, and opening the nostrils so as to get as high a view as possible. A plug, of sponge or of other material, in the nostril may be detected in the same way as a tumour. If there be any sore reject the horse. Sometimes there are several little tumours or ulcers on different parts of the body. They are termed farcy buds; and, when existing in combination with discharge from the nose, the horse is surely glandered.

X Glanders renders a horse unsound in all its stages. It is a common opinion that a glandered horse is returnable, however small his price. I have not been able to ascertain whether there is any law expressly forbidding the sale of an animal with this disease; but I am disposed to think that there is none.

Gleet.—The horse often has a discharge from one or both nostrils, when it is impossible to decide whether he is glandered or not. The discharge may be thin, adhesive, and whitish, or it may be thick,

*A seller may be the best before
any. Opened before
time of travel.*

yellow, short, curdy ; it may proceed continuously, or it may be ejected only now and then ; it may adhere to the borders of the nostrils or it may not, there may be enlargement of the glands under the jaw, or there may be none. If the discharge is not constant, it appears after, or while drinking, or after the horse is taken out of the stable ; and often, if he has been reined up at work, a large quantity of matter is ejected after his head is freed ; when it is found that such a horse is not glandered, the disease is termed a nasal gleet.

A discharge possessing or accompanied by any of these signs is always to be regarded with suspicion. It may be merely the dregs of a common cold ; it may be curable by medicine, or it may cure itself ; but yet the horse may possibly be glandered. There may be evidence that the disease is the result of catarrh, or the horse's history may be known, and in such cases it may be decided that he is not glandered. But it very often happens that the history of the horse cannot be got, and that there are no symptoms of disease but the discharge, accompanied or not by enlargement of the glands under the jaw.

The purchaser however can return the horse, although no professional man may grant a certificate that the beast is glandered. He would be very unwise who would keep such a doubtful bargain. Until the discharge is removed, no one can positively say that the horse is not glandered. After it has been cured, or after it has disappeared of itself, it is then known that it was merely nasal gleet. Among professional men it is generally, though not universally, considered that glanders is not curable, and any suspicious dis-

charge from the nostrils is regarded as another disease, as soon as it is found to be curable.

A horse with nasal gleet is unsound. His appetite may be good ; he may be cheerful ; and capable of doing a considerable quantity of work. But he never stands hard work : he soon loses flesh ; the discharge increases, and at last he becomes very weak, and has to be thrown off. All this, it is true, happens only when he is put to work of the severest kind ; but it is quite sufficient to render him unsound.

Sore Throat.—Also termed a cold, cough, and catarrh. In travelling from fair to fair horses are very apt to catch a cold by the way ; and to have discharge from the nose, cough, and soreness of throat. This is particularly the case with the Irish horses that are brought to Glasgow ; very few arrive here that have not suffered more or less from their exposure to the sea air on one side and the heat of the steam-boat furnace on the other. In the most of cases these colds are trifling affairs. A little care and management soon restore health to the greatest number ; but a few require medical treatment and are in some danger if neglected. The signs are, cough, some tenderness about the throat when compressed, and a thin watery discharge from the nose. This is so common among horses that have travelled and especially those that are young and badly-housed on the road, that few purchasers object to it. But for all this it is not a thing to be neglected. Now and then the horse never recovers ; the cough may become permanent, or the inflammation of the throat may extend to the lungs and possibly destroy life. At all

events the horse must not be used as if he were in perfect health.

A horse with a cold upon him is unsound. The seller, indeed, will warrant him sound, and say that the cough is of no consequence ; but if the purchaser would avoid any possible bad consequences of the cold, he should have a special warranty against it, or no warranty at all. The law of Scotland requires that the horse be returned as soon as he is discovered to be unsound ; and if it could be proved that the buyer knew of the cough on the day of sale, and did not offer to return for several days after, he is held liable to keep the horse as he is. In England it is different : the purchaser may, if he pleases, try to cure the horse ; and though he die, yet it is sufficient to have proof that he had the cold, or cause of death, when sold.

Although a cold is an unsoundness, yet, as has been said, it so seldom produces any permanent inconvenience that very few regard it as of much consequence : it is remedied in general by a short and simple course of treatment ; and when it assumes a more serious aspect, the subsequent management is perhaps as much to be blamed as the original intensity of the disease. The evil arises from treating the horse as if he were quite well.

All the signs of a cold may appear in the course of a single night. There are no signs indicating the age of the disease ; hence if the purchaser would return the horse for the cold, he must do so immediately : after two days, the veterinarian will be unable to say whether the horse caught the cold before or after sale, and the only proof that remains is the evidence of those who

intimately knew the horse at, and for some days before, sale. From evidence of this kind it is very difficult, and in general impossible, to procure the truth. Those who know it have an interest in concealing it.

The glands situated in the channel and adhering to the inside of the lower jaw bones, are enlarged in strangles, glanders, and sometimes a little during the continuance of a common cold, when the nostrils are much inflamed. This enlargement sometimes, though very seldom, exists as a consequence of strangles; and in such cases is of no importance whatever. But in the other cases, though the enlargement does not of itself constitute unsoundness, yet it is a symptom of diseases that do.

The Neck, at its junction with the head, is sometimes marked by the crib-biting strap; the mark is merely a slight depression, about two inches broad, all round the neck; and at this part the hair is a little shorter, and lies closer than elsewhere; it is produced by the frequent or constant application of a tight strap to prevent crib-biting. It is never seen but in those that have worn the strap for a long time—a year at least.

Crib-biting has been termed by some a disease, by others a vice, and a few have regarded it as merely a habit, little or not at all pernicious. Hence have arisen many disputes as to whether or not it constitutes unsoundness. Not all, but a great part of the veterinary profession, however, appear disposed to regard it as

an unsoundness; some suppose that it is occasionally a cause of disease, and others that it is an effect. Horse dealers entertain as much diversity of opinion on the subject, but all allow that it depreciates the horse's value so much, that it must, if possible, be concealed from the purchaser. A great many think lightly of it, unless the horse be much addicted to it; but although it may do no mischief in a slight degree, it must yet be remembered that it is always increasing by little and little, until in time the most insignificant becomes the most determined crib-biter. Even those that affect to disregard it, take very good care to prevent it, as much as possible, by applying a strap to the throat. It is true that crib-biters have been known to live to a good old age, and without appearing to suffer any inconvenience from the habit; but these, for the most part, were horses of slow work. It is well enough known that the majority are apt to fill the stomach and bowels with air to such an extent as to impair digestion, impede the breathing, and produce frequent attacks of colic. Old crib-biters that have much work are generally lean, and have a dry, staring, coat. In Scotland crib-biting has been considered an unsoundness in a court of law; and in England, a horse warranted sound and free from vice was held to be returnable because he was a crib-biter.

Crib-biting consists in swallowing air. The animal takes hold of the manger, or some other fixture, with his front teeth; he then dilates the upper part of the gullet and gulps over the air, making a grunting sort of noise. During the time the horse is crib-biting, he stands with his feet gathered together, and the back

slightly arched. This can only be discovered by watching the horse in the stable. Before purchase, the teeth, as well as the neck, should be examined ; in old crib-biters the outer edges of the front teeth are worn away and little pieces are broken off by attrition against the manger.

Horses do not become confirmed crib-biters all at once ; with some the habit is much sooner established than with others. In no case are there any signs indicative of the precise time it has existed. Those that crib five or six times a-day, may be supposed to have practised it for several weeks.

Windsucking is a habit producing nearly the same effects as crib-biting. In both, the horse swallows air, but there is a difference in the mode of swallowing it. The windsucker does not require to seize any fixed body with his teeth. "He makes a peculiar sucking noise with his mouth, as if drawing in fluid or air. He drops his under lip, which he keeps in continual motion, at the same time shaking his head as if in concert with the movements of his lip." This may be observed anywhere if the horse is left at liberty, and disposed to practise the habit ; but the fear of correction will prevent him. He must be watched in the stable.

I am not sure that either windsucking or crib-biting are included in the definition which I have ventured to give of unsoundness. It requires to be proved that there is disease in these cases, but there is no proof of the existence of any disease during the early stages of crib-biting. At a later period there is reason to believe that the stomach, and perhaps some other organs lose

a portion of their original energy. But even though future investigation may find that there is no disease necessarily attending the habits termed crib-biting and windsucking, yet they will probably continue to be regarded as constituting unsoundness as much as they are at present, or it may be more so.

The Veins of the Neck.—One of the jugular veins is sometimes partially obliterated in consequence of becoming inflamed after the operation of bleeding. Such a defect may be easily discovered by placing the finger on the lower part of the neck, and compressing the vein sufficiently to stop the passage of the blood; if the vein be entire, it will be seen to fill and swell upward, from the point of pressure to the head. When not entire, it rises only to about half-way up the neck.

The loss of a vein is an unsoundness. All practitioners, however, do not consider it as such. It is true that, if it has been long lost, other veins have had time to increase so much in size that, among them, they do the work for which the other has become unfit. But for a month or two after the vein is closed up, the eyes are apt to become inflamed, the head to swell, especially if the horse is turned to grass, or suffered to feed off the ground; he is also disposed to staggers, that is, to apoplexy. All this arises from the accumulation of blood in the head; after the other veins have enlarged sufficiently there is no danger of this accumulation; but previously, if by any accident the remaining jugular should become inflamed, the horse's life is held by a precarious tenure.

But for all this there are worse unsoundnesses than

the loss of a vein. If the horse has not to be turned to grass, the purchaser may run all hazards for an abatement of a few pounds off the horse's price.

The Shoulder.—Disease, unaccompanied by lameness, rarely exists in this part. Callous, and other tumours, produced by the collar, are, indeed, often found immediately under the skin; but they seldom, perhaps never, produce lameness. If the horse be bought to run in harness, and these tumours, from their size or situation, are such as to unfit him for wearing the collar, they then constitute an unsoundness. In a horse bought or used for the saddle they are mere blemishes.

The deeper-seated parts of the shoulder are sometimes injured, and the horse is lame. The lameness is so very apt to return, even after it has been removed by blistering and other remedies, that the horse is often sold as soon as the lameness has been removed. The owner chooses to sell him rather than run the risk of recalling the lameness by putting the horse to work.

But though the horse becomes lame in the shoulder soon after purchase, yet it is generally difficult, and often impossible to say with certainty, that the cause of lameness existed prior to sale. If there be any marks of rowels, setons, or blisters on the skin, it is then very probable that the horse has previously been lame in the shoulder, or at least it is pretty certain that he has been treated for shoulder lameness. It seldom happens that deep-seated disease produces any alteration in the external appearance of this part. There are certain rare cases, however, in which one or two

of the muscles are shrunk and wasted away; and this, which is evident to the eye, is sufficient testimony that the horse is, and has been for some considerable time unsound.

Marks left by Blisters, Rowels, &c.—A seton and a rowel, that is, a kind of tent or issue, produce nearly similar marks. Both leave scars, small or large, at the place of their insertion; but in many cases the blemish is so trifling that it cannot be discovered without shedding the hair aside. In other cases, a small, knotty, bald tubercle is left, which can be seen, or felt by drawing the hand over the skin.

Blisters, when well made and properly applied, leave no permanent mark; but in the majority of cases, an experienced eye can, for a certain length of time, detect the place where a blister has been applied. The hair stares a little; it is rather short, strong, bristly, and it wants the fine, glossy tinge common to the hair on other parts of the body. Sometimes it is not exactly of the same colour; it is a shade darker or lighter. These signs are most observable when the part has been blistered more than once; when it has been recently blistered, and when the legs have been the parts operated upon. Over the body, as on the shoulder, the signs are still good, but they require better eyes to see them. After the first moulting season they generally disappear altogether; but in one or two cases the hair of the blistered part remains fixed, while all the rest falls off, and a slight difference in colour is observable. When the blister has been bad, or improperly applied, it often leaves large puckered scars,

devoid of hair; and the hair remaining, is thin, staring, and irregular.

The mark of the firing iron is well enough known. It produces longitudinal, callous, elevated seams, without hair. Time, however, often removes these as well as the others.

The Point of the Elbow is sometimes the seat of a large and ugly tumour, produced by repeated bruises from the heel of the shoe, when the horse is lying, with the leg bent under him.

I have never seen this produce any alteration in the horse's action; and unless it do so it is a mere blemish. I believe that such is the opinion of the majority of veterinarians.

The Front of the Knee is invariably examined with great care by every purchaser at all acquainted with horses. If the hair be rubbed off, or the part be bald, it is a symptom that the horse has, at sometime, fallen and injured himself; and it is a common, though erroneous opinion, that if he has once come down, he will ever after be most liable to the same accident. This error has been produced and perpetuated by observing that some horses fall very often; and although in a few cases, subsequent falls may be attributed to some preceding falls, yet, in general, this stumbling propensity arises from defective conformation, or disease, having nothing to do with any previous mistake. The horse may stand too much over his forelegs, or he may be bent at the knees, or too straight in the pasterns; he may be too low at the withers, or he may

have an upright shoulder. Any of these defects render him very apt to stumble; and so do certain diseases in the fore-feet. None of these, however, except the last, render the horse unsound. An injury of the knee of any kind is usually termed a broken knee.

Stiffness of the knee joint.—This is often produced by repeated falls, or by one attended with severe and extensive injury. The extent of motion which the joint possesses is the best test of its freedom from disease. If it can be so far bent that the hoof may touch the elbow, and, at the same time, the fetlock the forearm, there is no stiffness in the knee. If it cannot be bent so far, and without producing any pain, the joint is stiffened, the horse unsound, unfit for quick work, and liable to fall at any work, whenever the ground is rough or deep.

The extent of this incapacity will vary according to the degree in which the knee is stiffened; but the slightest is sufficient to make the horse unsound. Some work on for months, others for years, without becoming quite useless, but it is an evil that seldom remains stationary. The probability of its getting worse is far greater than the probability of its getting any better. A knee-joint cannot be perceptibly and permanently stiffened in a day or two. The disease proceeds slowly, and is not always accompanied by lameness.

Speedy Cut.—Immediately below the knee-joint, and on the inside of the leg, the skin is sometimes found abraded, or thickened, and the bone a little enlarged at the same point. This is produced by

repeated blows from the opposite foot, when the high-actioned horse is trotting fast. When not accompanied by lameness, it is not an unsoundness ; but, in general, it indicates bad action.

Splint or Splent.—This is a small bony tumour, found sometimes on the outside, but oftenest on the inside, of the fore-leg, between the knee and the fetlock joints. It is often midway between these two points, but generally nearer the highest. It varies in size, and is most common, or rather altogether confined, to fast-working horses. Few, that have been some months at work, and especially in the town, or on hard roads, are free from it. At first, a splint usually produces more or less lameness ; but after a time this goes off by proper treatment, and the horse appears not to be the worse for it. By neglect or abuse, it may become very large, and it is said that it may even interfere with the motion of the back tendons ; but this happens very rarely, if at all.

A splint, without lameness, is not an unsoundness ; but should lameness appear as a consequence of the splint after sale, the horse is returnable. All lameesses, that arise from causes existing at the time of sale, make a horse unsound. The lameness which commonly precedes the formation of a splint, may come on after a single journey ; but several days, weeks, or months, may elapse before the splint itself becomes apparent. The time varies according to the fastness of the work.

Sprain or Strain of the Back Tendons.—This is

an injury, or the effects of an injury done to the tendons, which are situated at the back of the leg, between the knee and the fetlock. Recent injury is always accompanied by more or less lameness, some swelling, pain on pressure, and heat. By time and treatment, all these may be removed; but often the swelling remains after the other symptoms are gone. The swelling or thickening of the tendons shows that some permanent mischief has been done; and though it is possible that lameness may not again recur, yet experience says that it is very probable it will, especially if the horse be put to violent exertion.

In examining the tendons, or, indeed, any other part, for enlargement, it is not enough to feel and to look at them. When enlargement is suspected in any part, it should be compared with the same part of the opposite limb, and the eye, and the hand, should both be used for this purpose. The same parts are not always diseased in both legs, and even when they are, both are very seldom equally so; the difference points out a deviation from health. In comparing the tendons of one fore or hind-leg with those of its fellow, the eye is seldom sufficient; it detects enlargement only when it is considerable; the hand is a better guide; pass the thumb and two first fingers slowly down each leg alternately. Any enlargement of the tendons constitutes unsoundness, even though there be no lameness. These parts have so much to do, that they can ill afford to lose any of their original strength. Any marks of firing or blistering, as indicating previous treatment for injury, real or supposed, will make the purchaser cautious.

The Fetlock Joints are frequently the seat of bony or tendinous enlargements, which in almost every case render the horse unsound, even where there is no lameness; but these joints are subject to enlargements, which are neither tendinous nor bony, and which do not constitute unsoundness. *Windgalls* and callosity produced by blows, are merely blemishes.

Windgalls are little puffy tumours, without pain, seated on each side, and almost on, the fetlock joints of both the fore and hind limbs. They are little bags containing and confining a lubricating fluid, for preventing friction between parts that move upon each other; and an increase of this fluid, which dilates the bags, and brings them into view, is all that a windgall consists of. Very few fast-going horses are without them; they show that the animal has done some work; but, except when very large, they are never regarded as constituting unsoundness.

Cutting.—When a horse is in the habit of striking the fetlocks with the opposite foot, during progression, he is termed a *getter*; thickening of the skin and parts beneath, is the consequence of these repeated blows. The enlargement is always seated on the inside of the joint; it never produces unsoundness, till the bony or tendinous parts are injured, which perhaps they never are, from cutting. The habit of cutting is a serious objection to a horse. In a few cases it may arise from weakness, fatigue, or bad shoeing, but in general it proceeds from bad action, or malformation.

The signs of cutting are found at the fetlock and

the foot. Besides the enlargement already mentioned, there is some abrasion of the skin ; and there is a particular mode of shoeing horses that are cutters. When very bad, the inside branch of the shoe is made much thicker than that of the outside, and the nails are all driven in the toe and the outside. With those that are not so bad, the shoe is nailed in the usual way, but the nail heads and the edge of the shoe are rasped very smooth and close to the hoof; and sometimes the hoof hangs a little over the edge of the shoe. Cutting, however objectionable, cannot be called an unsoundness. Among cart horses it is never seen, except when their toes are turned very much outwards. Among those of quick work it is a great annoyance ; after striking the fetlock a severe blow, the pain is so great, that the horse often hops several paces on three legs, and sometimes he falls.

Unnerving, or neurotomy.—The nerves on each side of the fetlocks of the fore-legs, are sometimes divided to destroy or deaden sensation in the foot. The operation is performed by professional men, to remove the pain attending an incurable disease. The lameness is removed, but the disease goes on ; the horse may work for months or years ; but should he get the foot injured, matter forms, and, spreading in all directions, destroys the whole of the foot. The injury produces these effects, because the horse shows no signs that he has sustained any, and he works on unnoticed, till it is too late to take any measures for arresting that which might have been stayed in a few hours, had the horse shown any lameness to attract

attention. Besides this possibility of destruction to the senseless foot, from external injury, there is a possibility, or, rather, in many cases, a probability, that the original disease will proceed so far as to produce similar effects.

Sometimes one and sometimes both feet are unnerved. The incisions never heal so well as to leave no trace of their having been made; the scar in the skin should be sought on each side of the fetlocks; it is generally under, though sometimes above, that joint; the skin beneath the scar is insensible, or nearly so.

The mere section of the nerves would make a horse unsound; but in process of time, their ends reunite, and sensation is restored, to all appearance, as completely as before; and then, as far as the operation is concerned, the horse is sound. By pricking the skin with a pin, it can be ascertained whether or not sensation be restored. If it is, the horse cannot justly be returned for unsoundness, even though it can be proved that he has at some time been unnerved. These observations are necessary, because blunderers have performed the operation for curable diseases, when it was not demanded: and it has been practised for canker, which in some cases is curable. But in the most of instances, it is resorted to for that which cannot be cured; and then, indeed, the horse is unsound, from the continuance of the original disease, whether the nerves have reunited or not.

Much money should rarely be given for a horse that has been unnerved. Even though that which made the operation necessary should have been removed,

still, until the nerves are united, the foot is in danger of destruction from slight causes. To preserve it, it must be constantly watched by a person who can, by signs independent of lameness, discover an injury before it has done irreparable mischief.

The Pastern, or space between the fetlock joint and the top of the hoof, is the seat of a bony tumour, termed *ring-bone*, from its tendency to surround the pastern. It differs greatly in size and extent in different horses. It may be discovered by its prominence, and by comparing the one pastern with the other. Among horses that are kept at slow work, the disease may exist for years, and attain a very large size without producing any perceptible lameness. A few are lame or tender only when trotted, and some are evidently lame only when trotted on the stones. But many others, with much smaller ringbones, are lame under all circumstances. Some become lame only when brought to town. Very few post horses go sound with them. In all cases, a ringbone, however small, makes a horse unsound. The horse may at the time be free from lameness, but no man can say how long he will continue so.

The Foot is liable to many diseases, some of which are attended with constant lameness, and these we ascertain the existence of, by this symptom, more than from any peculiar appearance of the foot itself. Such is the case in that disease termed groggyness, or malady of the navicular joint. Others are not constantly accompanied by lameness, but are apt or

certain to produce it when the horse is put to work. It is chiefly for these that the foot must be examined.

Sidebones.—Immediately above the hoof, at the heels, and stretching forward on each side, and having the hollow of the pastern between, are two elastic bodies, which the anatomist terms the lateral cartilages. Their situation is marked by the letter E in the diagram of the fore-leg. There is one on each side of both the fore and of the hind-foot. When in health, they yield inwards and a little outwards, to the pressure of the finger and thumb. They are liable to a disease which renders them partly or wholly inelastic, and frequently makes them so prominent, as to invite attention. The cartilages are converted into bone; and stablemen say that the horse has got *sidebones*; among veterinarians, the disease is called ossification of the lateral cartilages; and sometimes it is denominated ringbone. The hind-feet are rarely affected; in the fore-feet, the cartilage of one or both may be ossified. Draught horses are much more liable than those of less weight. The disease comes on slowly. Any perceptible ossification will require some weeks to form.

Side-bone, however small, makes a horse unsound. It does not invariably produce lameness, yet, much work over the stones very often makes the horse tender, if not actually lame; and few fast-going horses are without more or less, when they have got this disease. But when the ground is soft, and the pace slow, the animal may be serviceable for many years.

Sanderack is a fracture of the hoof, a partial or complete separation between the fibres of which it is composed. The fissure is generally found on the inside quarter of the hoof, or directly in front. It varies in length, from half an inch, to the whole depth of the crust, and in depth it may pass to the quick, or be confined to a small thickness of the surface. When quite through, however short, the crack always produces lameness.

A sanderack is always an unsoundness, as long as it lasts. It often increases in depth and length; often makes the horse lame, and always requires particular management in shoeing, &c. It may take place in an instant; and, unless there be some marks of the smith's knife or rasp about it, to show that the foot has been under treatment, it is impossible to say how long it has existed. If the crack be quite through to the quick, and bleeding, and the horse lame, and no marks of previous paring or dressing, the crack is recent.

Contraction.—This word is applied to any diminution in the natural breadth of the foot, which may be said to be contracted when it is narrower from side to side, than it is long from the point of the toe to the heel of the frog. The hind-feet are not liable to contraction. Most people regard a contracted foot as being a great detriment to the horse; but it frequently happens that the persons who do so, have a horse whose foot is very narrow, while they are not at all aware of it. This circumstance is sufficient to show that the evil is not of such a serious nature as is commonly imagined. Indeed, there are very few light, well-bred

horses, above the age of seven, that have not more or less contraction, and yet they may be perfectly sound. The fact is, contraction is not a disease at all. For many years it was blamed for producing lameness; but Mr. James Turner, of London, has shown us very clearly that the lameness arises from another cause, without which the contraction is of no consequence. When the contraction comes on slowly, the parts within have time to accommodate themselves to the diminished capacity of that which contains them. But in no case can the hoof be suddenly diminished in size, to such a degree that the diminution is apparent to the eye. Whatever fetters the natural motions of the foot, or prevents the horse from freely throwing his weight upon it, will, in the process of time, produce evident contraction.

Pain, whether seated in the foot or in the limb, is one of these causes; hence we have contraction as a consequent, not as an antecedent of lameness.

Contraction, then, alone, is not an unsoundness. If there be lameness also, find the cause, and reject the horse for that. There is as much impropriety in returning a lame horse for contraction, as in returning one half-blind for shying. It ought to be observed, however, that there are veterinarians who think otherwise on this affair. They hold contraction as a sufficient cause to return a horse for unsoundness. They are men who heed not the suggestions and improvements of their professional brethren. At school they get a certain quantity of knowledge, which never afterwards increases. Their own little experience may indeed be something, but that of others is nothing.

A difference in the size of the feet is a more suspicious matter than an equal degree of smallness in both. When one is smaller than its neighbour, it is a proof that there has been pain in that foot or limb for a long time; and it is needful to inquire whether the cause of pain be entirely gone, or whether it has produced any permanent injury.

Thrush.—This is a disease of the frog, of that triangular protuberance of horn which fills up the vacuity between the heels of the hoof. The disease occurs very often in both fore and hind feet, but is most common in the latter. It exists in very different degrees. It may consist in the discharge of a small quantity of foetid matter from the cleft of the frog, without any destruction of the texture, or alteration in the shape of this part; or the frog may be shrunk in volume; the horn spongy, ragged, or rotten. When neglected, the disease usually proceeds thus far, and, in process of time, the frog and the surrounding parts occasionally become cankered. When put under treatment during the early stages, thrush is cured with ease and certainty; but when it has proceeded to canker, the cure is often impossible, and at best, it is tedious and expensive.

A thrush is an unsoundness. Some veterinarians, however, are of a different opinion. They, and perhaps the seller, argue that the disease is, in very many cases, insignificant; that it does not produce lameness; that it may be cured by two or three dressings; and that, being so common, it would be unfair to condemn a horse for so trifling a cause, when, otherwise,

he may be unexceptionable. All this is true; but at the same time, these men admit that thrushes may exist in such a degree as to constitute unsoundness. Here is the difficulty; one may consider this thrush as of no consequence, or as of very little, while another may broadly call it an unsoundness. None can say at what particular stage the disease has proceeded so far as to make the horse unsound. If we could do this, we might, as in some other cases we must, say that the disease may or may not render the horse unsound. To avoid inflicting any peculiar hardship upon the seller we are sometimes compelled to consider some diseases as unsoundness only in certain stages. But there is no need of this concession in reference to thrushes. If they are so insignificant as to be of no moment to the buyer, it is surely much better to have them cured before the horse is sold at all. The cure can be so easily and quickly performed that the seller has no just ground of complaint, if the purchaser, in fear that it will be a more serious risk than he chooses to incur, returns the horse as unsound. It is the punishment his negligence deserves.

But there never was a thrush, however slight, that could truly be termed quite harmless; besides its tendency to proceed and become a much worse disease, it is at all times apt to make a fast-going horse fall. The diseased frog, though painful on pressure, produces no lameness on a level road, because it is raised from the ground by the heels of the shoe; but when it comes upon a rolling stone, the pain produced is so great as to make the horse lame for a few paces; and sometimes he falls, in making a sudden effort to raise the

foot, when it should be firmly placed to receive the weight.

Still, notwithstanding these possible or probable evils, it is not every horse that should be rejected for thrushes. The purchaser may run all risk for a small abatement of the price, sufficient to pay for the expense of treatment, and for a peculiar mode of shoeing, by which the danger of a fall is much diminished.

I think, however, that, all things considered, it would be well if veterinarians would all agree to regard thrush as an unsoundness in every case. Unanimity on this point would, no doubt, sometimes compel a seller to take back a horse for a thrush, when the *real* objection might be some fault for which the horse could not be legally returned; such as defective conformation, laziness, or some other fault not discovered till after sale, and not of such a nature as to constitute unsoundness: the buyer in such cases might make the thrush a sufficient plea for return; but this is an evil not likely to happen often, and it is not so intolerable as that unseemly difference of opinion among professional men, so often observed in a court of justice during the trial of horse causes.

Corns.—A corn is a bruise at the heels of the fore-foot. The hind feet are so little liable that we never look for, or expect to find a corn in them. It is found oftener in the inside than the outside heel; and is indicated by more or less discoloration or redness of the horn. This is rather the effect of the bruise, and may remain long after the sensitive parts are completely restored; that is to say, after all the lameness and the

heat of the part, which usually attend a recent bruise, are quite gone. A corn may be produced by a single shoeing, and perhaps cured by another shoeing. If the foot be good, and the horse free from lameness, a simple discolouration of the horn, which is only the effect of a cause that may have ceased to operate, cannot in justice make the horse unsound. But if the heels be so low, weak, and thin, or tender, as to require more than ordinary care in shoeing, the corn renders the horse unsound. Horses frequently get different parts of the sole bruised, from stones becoming fast in the foot ; and for weeks or months afterwards, the horn covering the parts bruised remains of a reddish colour ; it is stained by the blood which was effused into its pores at the time the bruise was inflicted. After the lameness is gone, nobody regards this as an unsoundness, and it is not different from a great many corns. Many horsemen, however, reject a good, serviceable animal, because he happens to have a corn, that is, a bruise in the heel. They make no distinction between the horse that, from the construction of his feet, must always have corns, and the horse that has got them by accident, and need not have them again as long as he is shod with ordinary care. In the latter case the smith may remove the discoloured horn with his knife, and then no objection remains ; but in the former case the horn is red from the surface to the quick, and the foot is so formed that, to keep the horse free from lameness, his shoes must be often removed and carefully replaced.

Flat Soles—In almost all horses with sound feet, the sole is more or less concave ; in those of light

weight the concavity is more considerable than in heavier horses ; but in some, especially the latter kind, the sole is nearly or quite flat. There is little or no concavity at all. This is not always the result of disease ; the sole may be quite flat, and the horse still free from unsoundness. It is not every smith that can shoc him as well as another in whom the sole is concave ; but the flatness is a mere defect in conformation ; there is no disease and the horse is not unsound. The horse may be refused for this, as for any other defect in conformation, but he cannot, or at least ought not to be, returned for unsoundness. The great evil of a flat foot is the danger of its becoming *convex* from an attack of founder. The horse is more likely to be permanently injured, just as a horse with a narrow chest is more likely to suffer permanent injury from an attack of inflamed lungs.

Founder.—But there is another kind of flatness of the sole. It is produced by founder, by inflammation in the feet. A horse may have this disease and be perfectly cured by proper treatment, but in some other cases the treatment is bad, or the disease obstinate, and the feet remain more or less injured. When founder has done any mischief to the structure of the foot, the gait of the horse is peculiar ; he goes on the heels ; the heels come to the ground a little while before the toe ; and in process of time the foot itself undergoes some alteration in shape. The sole becomes less concave, quite flat, and ultimately, perhaps, it bulges downwards. It is convex, and termed a pumiced foot. Horses with feet of this kind are rarely fit for much

work : the feet seldom improve, and they are in great danger of becoming worse. They require constant attention, and much skill in shoeing. Even in slight cases, the horse can never be much trusted at quick work. When the pace is slow and the back-burden light, he may be serviceable for years ; but much of this always depends upon the shoeing-smith. Horses of this kind are unsound.

Flat soles and founder are almost as rare in the hind feet as corns.

The Withers are often bruised by the saddle ; and as long as the heat, pain, and swelling continue, the horse cannot be used. I have known this overlooked in making a purchase. The horse is unsound as long as he is unfit to carry the saddle ; as long as there is any pain in the part

The Chest on each side, immediately behind the point of the elbow, should be examined for marks of setons, rowels, and blisters. Any marks of these indicate that the horse has had inflamed lungs, or at least they show that he has been under treatment for this or some other disease of the chest. It is possible that the disease may have produced some permanent mischief, and the lungs should be well tried by a smart gallop before, or immediately after purchase.

The Counter and space between the forelegs should be examined for the same marks. Remedies, such as rowels and blisters, are often applied here for chest disease, but they are also often applied for disease in

the shoulder, and sometimes for nothing at all, save some foolish notion of drawing away the humours. None of these marks, wherever seated, make the horse unsound ; they only indicate the pre-existence of something that may or may not have been an unsoundness.

The Haunch bones.—By an accident, a piece, large or small, is sometimes broken off one or other of these bones. In consequence, there is a want of prominence on that side, which is best observed by the eye, when the examinant is standing a few paces behind the horse.

A large portion is sometimes broken off the haunch bone without producing any apparent inconvenience. The deformity may be considerable, but unless there is some defect in the horse's action, arising from this injury, it is probable, he would not, by veterinarians, be considered as unsound.

The Stifle is rarely diseased ; but any hony or tendinous enlargement about this important joint is very likely to cause unsoundness.

The Groin is now and then the seat of a soft, elastic tumour, varying in size from three or four to twelve or fourteen inches in diameter. It is formed by the escape of a portion of howel from the belly, and is the same with what is termed rupture in the human being. It is oftenest met with in the stallion, and occupies the same bag as the testicle. But altogether it is so rare in the horse that it is very seldom looked for. The disease is, without doubt, an unsoundness.

The Testicles.—In purchasing stallions these ought to be examined. Sometimes one becomes useless from disease; and occasionally both are affected. They can be examined only by a professional man.

The Hock.—It has often been said, that the foot before, and the hock behind, are liable to more disease than any other part of the body. It is an observation founded upon experience, and should not be forgotten by the purchaser when examining these parts.

Capped Hock.—This is a swelling on the point of the hock, often, but not always, produced by the horse kicking in the stable, or in harness. After the inflammation, which accompanies its commencement, is subdued, there is no lameness; and the horse is not, from this cause, unsound. He is only blemished; but it is a blemish of a very bad kind; most of people know that it generally belongs to a vicious horse. Both hocks are usually affected.

There is another kind of capped hock. Externally, the swelling is little different from the preceding; but it is known to arise from disease much deeper-seated, and it is attended with more or less lameness; and the horse flinches when the part is pressed upon. In general it is only one hock that is affected. The horse with this kind of capped hock is unsound; but he often does much work, whether fast or slow; and frequently the lameness disappears after he is fairly on the road.

A Curb is a longitudinal swelling, found at the back of the hind-leg, three or four inches below the hock

joint. It is best seen at a yard or two from the horse's side. The swelling generally consists of some tendinous eulargement at this place; but sometimes it is merely an increase in the quantity of a fluid which lubricates the tendons. In either case, its commencement is commonly attended with some lameness; but after time and treatment have removed these, the horse appears to suffer no inconvenience, although the swelling still remains.

Veterinarians are not unanimous in their opinions of curb. Some insist that it is always an unsoundness; others that it is not, except when accompanied by lameness. It is well enough known that those horses that have what are termed curby hocks—that is, a hock predisposed to curb, from its shape—are almost sure to have this disease, and to be lame from it soon after they are put to work; and that these horses are seldom lame from this cause afterwards. The first attack, when properly treated, seems to render the parts less liable to any subsequent attack. And it is also well enough known that horses often do fast and hard work after they have got curb, as well as before they got it. These things considered, perhaps the purchaser will run little risk. But on the other hand, horses do occasionally become lame from a second attack of inflammation in the curby swelling. In such cases the horse may have been put too soon to work, before the parts were quite well, or he may have undergone exertion that would have produced curb whether he had had it before or not. If the purchaser could learn that the horse has been at full work, and continued sound for a month or two, or even a fortnight,

he need not object very strongly to the curb. If the horse continues free from lameness for three weeks, he may, as far as the curb is concerned, continue so for ever.

Thorough-pin is a tumour of the same nature as a windgall. It is situated on each side of the hock joint, about an inch above and behind the centre of motion. Few horses, perhaps none that have done any work, are without it. Unless it be so large as to indicate rupture of the synovial bag, or disease of the joint, or to interfere with motion, it is not an unsoundness. The veterinarian is the proper person to determine whether or not it does any of these things.

Bone Spavin.—This is a disease of frequent occurrence, especially among fast-going horses. It consists in a diseased state of the small bones and joints which enter into the formation of the hock. The commencement of spavin is indicated by lameness, some heat in the hock, by a peculiarity in the gait, and by the absence of any other cause of lameness. In the process of time, if the disease proceeds, a small, bony tumour appears on the inside of the hock, and after this, sometimes sooner, the lameness in general subsides, and the horse is only stiff. It is now that he is offered for sale. It is known that the lameness is very likely to return; and to increase, probably, after but a little work, and certainly after a great deal. Among horsemen the existence of spavin is not admitted until there is an external enlargement, evident to the eye or hand; but the process by which the bony tumour is produced, has been going on for a long time antecedent to the

appearance of the spavin. Previously, the only signs of the existence of this process, are the lameness, the heat in the hock, and a peculiarity in the action, which consists, for the most part, in dragging the toe near the ground. Now, the lameness generally goes off after the horse is a little heated by exertion; and the purchaser may be deceived unless he watch the horse before he is terrified and excited by the whipping and shouting of the dealer's groom. After the bony tumour has appeared, the lameness may be less evident; but the swelling may be perceived by comparing the inside of each hock with its fellow. The enlargement is best felt by drawing the hand gently and slowly, first over the one and then the other hock. It is best seen from behind the horse or from between his fore-legs, having him standing equally on both behind. The toe of the hoof and of the shoe is often worn away in spavined horses.

Bone spavin in all cases constitutes unsoundness. It is very true that many spavined horses work well and hardly for years, without becoming actually lame; they may be a little stiff, and especially so at starting, but there are a few that have spavins of considerable size, and yet have neither lameness nor stiffness. But it is quite impossible for any man to say how long they will remain thus. We cannot distinguish between those cases that will and those that will not produce lameness. If the horse has been at full work for sometime since the appearance of the spavin, and without lameness, it is probable that he may continue so, but it is by no means certain.

Bog Spavin is a swelling on the front, and rather towards the inside of the hock joint. It is of the same nature as windgalls and thoroughpin, and only to be regarded in the same light as those two indications of work or over-exertion. When large, however, it may require the skill of a professional man to determine how far it interferes with soundness. If there be any heat in the part, or the horse be lame, he is unsound, no matter how small may be the tumour.

Blood Spavin.—Over the middle of the tumour constituting bog spavin, a vein runs, which, by the distension of the bag beneath, is always pushed a little out of its place; and, appearing more prominent than before the existence of bog spavin, the groom thinks it is a disease, and calls it blood spavin. Dissection and measurement, however, show no trace of disease; nor when filled with wax in the dead subject, does it appear to be any larger than in other horses that had neither bog nor blood spavin. In some modern books bog spavin has been described under the term blood spavin; but earlier writers and horsemen of the present day consider them as quite distinct.

Below the hock joint the leg should be examined for enlargement of the back tendons; the fetlock for windgalls and cutting; the pasterns for ringbone; the foot for side bones, thrushes and sandcracks. The other diseases mentioned as belonging to the fore-leg and foot, are rarely, and some of them never, found in the same parts behind.

The Action, as indicative of disease.—There are

one or two unsoundnesses, whose principal, or only symptom is some defect in the action. Hence, besides minutely examining all the parts mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, it is necessary to put the horse in motion.

Lameness.—Three things must exist before a horse can be called lame. There must be pain; that pain must be aggravated by motion; and the horse must show, by his movements, that he tries to prevent the augmentation of the pain. We see the last, and we infer the existence of the two first. We know that he never pretends to feel that which is not. When he is lame in one of the fore-legs, the head is alternately raised and depressed; as the weight is thrown upon the tender limb, the head rises; and it sinks as the weight is transferred to the sound leg, which is thrown forward much quicker than the other, in order that the weight of the body may rest as transiently as possible upon that which is diseased. When the pain is seated in any part of a hind leg, there is little or no up-and-down motion of the head; but the affected limb moves more slowly than the other, which is jerked forward by a rapid or convulsive effort. The body also rises a little as it is passing over the diseased leg. When lameness exists in both fore or both hind-legs, it is not so easily detected, especially if the pain be equally great, or nearly so, in each. But the step is short and cautious, and the foot is placed gently and timidly upon the ground.

Groggy horses, that is, horses having disease of a

small joint of the foot, are very often lame on both, and the lameness is much less evident than it would be, were only one foot affected. They have a peculiar kind of action; it is low and confined. Their steps are short; the foot skims the ground; they set it down very gently, and they go much upon the toe. They have been called *daisy-cutters*. Besides the lameness, there is an unnatural degree of heat in the hoof, which is often much contracted. This, which is sometimes termed *groggy lameness*, is very common, and is seldom curable. Light or fast-working horses are much more liable than others; and the disease occurs only in the fore-feet. Many work for a long time, even in stage-coaches; but it is painful to see them.

Tricks of the Seller.—Lameness may be more or less evident according to the mode and place in which a horse is shown. In the stables of the low, unprincipled dealer, the lame horse, before being shown for sale, is subjected to a piece of barbarity at which humanity shudders. The horse is fired, that is to say, he is excited by the lash to such a degree that his attention is withdrawn from the disease in his feet or legs. Some hired ruffian is employed to horse-whip the poor crippled animal, and perhaps it is the only task he performs so completely. The punishment does not always cease in the stable; it is often repeated in the yard, before the eyes of the purchaser. The lash is re-applied or it is threatened; the horse, glad to escape from his torturer, sets off at a trot, heedless of his lameness, or at least showing it much less than when he is not under the influence of this

terror. It is chiefly at auctions that this disgraceful conduct prevails. A humane man would willingly believe that the *hy-standers* know not the reason of this low trick ; or he may hope that they indignantly express their disapprobation. Nothing of the kind. Upon these occasions there are always many who know the punishment, and why it is inflicted, but no murmur escapes their lips. They appear perfectly unconcerned. The horse is not theirs. Among all that surround him, no one will say, *be merciful*. His anxious look and trembling limbs may implore aid ; but there is no payment either for sympathy or assistance, and therefore none is rendered.

This *firing*, as the villains call it, is not the only means by which lameness may be concealed or diminished ; the head is held so firmly by the bridle that the up-and-down motion, which shows lameness of a fore foot, is partly prevented. Against this I have nothing to say, it may deceive a purchaser ; but it is attended with no inhumanity to the horse. He may require the groom to let the horse's head be free, by giving more rein. While exposed for sale, a lame horse is kept in continual motion. He is not permitted to stand still a moment. The fellow pretends to soothe the horse ; but he is, in reality, agitating him by certain manœuvres with the whip and bridle.

When a horse is lame on only one leg, the seller sometimes endeavours to make him as lame on its fellow. This trick is oftener practised on a fore than a hind limb. It is very frequently played off, with complete success, upon those horses that have the groggy lameness in one fore foot. Just before going

into the market, or before being exposed at an auction, the horse's shoes are removed, his feet dressed, and the shoes replaced. The sole of the sound foot is pared till it yields to the pressure of the thumb. After the shoes are on, and the sound foot thus prepared, the dealer takes a small pebble, or a piece of wood, shaped like a wedge—the stone, however, is oftenest employed—and he thrusts it under the shoe, at the toe or the quarter, so as to rest and press upon the sole. It is forced in with a pair of pineers, until as much pain is produced in the sound as in the diseased foot. Then the horse throws his weight equally on both limbs. The pressure is increased by little and little, till he does so. This process is very appropriately termed *balancing*, and sometimes *wedging*. Although it renders the lameness less evident, yet a man accustomed to horses easily perceives that the animal has pain in both feet. Besides the peculiarity in the action, already mentioned, the horse, while allowed to stand undisturbed, frequently shifts his weight from the one limb to the other.

He must be a very bad buyer of horses who could be cheated by a trick like this.

In many cases slight lamenesses are not shown upon soft ground, or at a walking pace, or when the horse is unburdened. The seller, when he can, usually chooses soft ground to show his horse on, as often, perhaps, to prevent slipping as to conceal lameness. But the buyer, if he would test the integrity of the limbs, should see the horse shown on hard ground; or, if possible, over the causeway. First of all, the horse should be walked, and then trotted in hand two or

three times; then he may see the horse mounted, walked, and trotted, always slowly at first. This will suffice, as far as soundness is concerned, but the horse may also be trotted quickly, or galloped, to show what sort of speed and action he has got. After the purchaser is satisfied as to the soundness of the limbs, he may follow the horse to some piecee of soft ground, where he may be put to the top of his speed without danger of slipping. Here, also, the horse's wind is most conveniently tried; but before proceeding so far, the horse should be examined for palsy of the hind legs, for staggers, stringhalt, and founder.

Stringhalt.—In this disease, the cause and seat of which are not known, the horse lifts one or both hind legs to an unnatural height, and in a convulsive jerking manner; sometimes he throws the leg a little outward. In slight cases, it is best observed when the horse is cool, and when he is turning. It diminishes, or goes off by exertion, and may not appear at all, after the horse is somewhat heated. We have no evidence that the texture of any part of the limb is altered or diseased, nor is it generally believed, either among stablemen or veterinarians, that the horse is at all injured by it. A few call it an unsoundness, but the majority do not. It is, however, a blemish which all dislike; even those who think it a sign of endurance would rather want it. In some parts of Scotland stringhalt is termed click or eleek-spavin.

Partial Palsy.—By palsy is meant partial or complete inability to make certain muscles contract. From

an injury done to the loins, or perhaps to the head, the horse is sometimes unable to exert his usual control over the muscles which move the hind legs. His hind quarters swing from side to side ; and when compelled to retrograde, or turn suddenly, he threatens to fall. Some will not be put back ; when urged they rear the body on the hind legs. In all cases this disease forms an unsoundness of a bad character. Few horses thus palsied are fit for much work ; and in general they can hardly earn their food. The injury by which the palsy is produced, may take place in an instant. If there be any marks of blistering or setons over the loins, it may be supposed to be an old affair, and that the horse has been treated for it. These horses seldom lie down ; and when down they generally require assistance to rise. Among stablemen they are said to be chinked in the chine, shook in the loins, or swayed in the back.

Shivering.—This disease is very rare. It consists in a shivering or trembling motion of the hind legs when the horse is made to retrograde. He is very unwilling to go backwards, and when urged, the hind legs tremble more or less violently, just as they are lifted, or before the foot is raised from the ground ; and they are lifted with great reluctance. Otherwise, the horse appears to be well. He is termed a *shiverer*. Some have supposed it to proceed from disease in the head, others from disease in the stifle joint, but nothing is known with certainty. At present I think it should be regarded as an unsoundness ; but, at the same time it ought to be observed that we are not sufficiently

acquainted with the extent of evil attending this peculiar affection of the nerves.

Staggers.—Horses are liable to a kind of apoplexy, which, among stablemen, is termed staggers or meagrits. They drop down all at once, without sense or motion, and after a little time they recover. A horse that has once had an attack of this kind is very much disposed to others. If he should have a fit of meagrits soon after purchase, it is difficult, or rather it is impossible to say whether this is the first or a subsequent attack. The best, if not the only, evidence that can be procured, is the testimony of some person who knew the horse for some time before he was sold.

Nimrod, in his Remarks on Condition, hints at a symptom that is either not common, or not well known. He says that horses who have had disease of the brain, show by a peculiar twitching of the head, that some permanent mischief has been done. "I saw a mare last week," says this writer, "whose brain I knew had been considerably affected. I had her brought out for inspection; admired her action much; and, had I not been apprised of it, I question whether I might not have overlooked a convulsive twitch of her head, which she gave at about every tenth stroke in her trot, which was perfect." Elsewhere he says, "I was once possessed of a hunter which had had a slight affection of the brain; but I did not know it at the time. He twitched his head in his slow paces, much like the mare I have spoken of; but no excitement was left, and an admirable hunter was he. I purchased him for thirty pounds, and, after summering him well, sold him to

the Hon. Mr. Bathurst for one hundred and thirty." p. 282, 283, *second edition*, 1834.

I have not met with any other authority by whom this twitching appears to have been observed. It is certainly not present in all horses that have had an attack of staggers, nor even in those that have been frequently affected.

It is questionable whether one fit of the staggers would make a horse unsound. A few are never more troubled with it; but a second attack is almost sure to produce a third, a third a fourth, and so on, till on some hot day the horse falls, never again to rise. The first attack may or may not be followed by others. If the horse continue at work for two or three months without the occurrence of a second fit, the seller may fairly warrant him sound; but even at the distance of three months, should a second fit appear, the purchaser is surely entitled to return the horse, provided it can be proved that he had a similar fit before sale. One attack seems to produce a particular state of the brain, by which it is rendered unusually susceptible of those causes which disorder or influence its functions.

Internal Diseases.—The horse is liable to many internal diseases, some of which cannot be known to exist until he has been closely observed for two or three days. These diseases must be such as to proceed slowly, and without interfering very materially with the horse's general health. He may have a stone in the bladder, disease of the kidneys, the liver, bowels, lungs, the blood vessels, the heart, or other parts, and yet the disease may not be observed, unless in particular

stages, in which it produces symptoms so marked, that an attentive stableman may perceive that there is something wrong. In cases of this kind a veterinarian ought to be consulted ; and it will be his business to discover the nature of the disease, and to give his opinion as to the time it has existed. Yet there are one or two diseases of internal parts, the existence of which may be ascertained, even before purchase. Such is the case with certain parts of the complicated apparatus concerned in the purification of the blood. The organs connected with breathing are very liable to disease in all fast-going horses ; to some extent the integrity of these organs may be estimated by the freedom, the ease, and regularity with which the horse breathes. The respiration can be quickened by a gallop ; but it must be remembered that a fat horse, or one that has been doing slow work, or one that has been doing no work at all, is very soon distressed. A little smart exercise will make him puff and blow as if he were short-winded ; but this is to be attributed to his want of working condition, not to disease.

Broken Wind.—This disease is supposed to reside in the lungs. It is characterized by some peculiarity in the breathing, and in the sound produced by coughing. In health, the flank alternately rises and falls, and in nearly equal times ; but, in the broken-winded horse it rises about half-way, pauses a moment, proceeds ; and then it drops in an instant, as if suddenly and forcibly thrust downwards. In this way the flank falls in less than half the time it occupies in rising. Expiration is performed by a double and prolonged effort ; in-

piration by a rapid convulsive movement. This is the principal symptom of broken wind. In the most of cases it is easily seen while the horse is at rest; but in general it is more completely developed after he is slightly agitated by exertion.

There is another symptom. The horse has a very peculiar cough. It is short, low, grunting, and frequently repeated, not unlike the cough of an old and feeble asthmatic. It is not the clear sonorous cough of health; once heard it is afterwards very easily recognised. In general it can be elicited by compressing the head of the wind-pipe between the fingers and thumb: but some horses that are sound, as well as those that are broken-winded, cannot be made to cough at all. The motions of the flank must be more narrowly watched in such cases. It sometimes happens that the horse may be made to cough more readily after his breathing is a little hurried by exertion. The most of broken-winded horses always have a cough, but some have none.

Broken-wind is an unsoundness. About this there is no difference of opinion. But it may be difficult to ascertain how long the horse has had the disease. Some say that it comes on all at once; that the horse may be well in the morning, and broken-winded at night. This may happen in many cases, but it certainly does not in all. The usual history of the horse is, that he has long been somewhat touched in his wind, but that it is only within two or three days that he has become so very bad—so evidently broken-winded.

This disease does not render the horse quite useless. Even in the worst of cases he is fit for some work;

some, more slightly affected, are able to follow the hounds with tolerable vigour, and many run for a long time in stage coaches. But they must be well managed; and often, in spite of the greatest care, they will, on particular days, be found very inefficient, or quite useless for fast work. They never last long, and they are generally very lean while at work.

Drugs and other things are sometimes given for the purpose of concealing broken-wind, until the horse can be sold. There are certain remedies by which the breathing may be rendered more tranquil and regular, but they soon cease to operate. The cough, however, cannot be altered by any means.

Roaring.—The head of the windpipe is sometimes distorted, or diseased, and the aperture through which the air passes is contracted. As the air traverses this narrowed part of its passage, a sound is produced, varying in loudness and character according to the degree in which the obstruction exists. When the distortion is considerable, the noise is loud and deep; it is best perhaps expressed by the word roaring. The horse is called a roarer. When the head of the windpipe is much contracted, the noise is loud and shrill. The horse is then termed a piper, or a whistler.

The obstruction is rarely so great as to produce any unusual noise in the breathing, while the horse is standing at rest. In a few, it is heard as soon as they are put to a trot; but in the majority of cases it is not heard until the horse is put to exertion, which quickens the breathing. He should be mounted, and get a smart gallop up hill, or in deep ground, or sufficiently

far on any ground, to increase the breathing. If the examinant does not ride himself, he should stand close to the horse at the moment he comes in.

When the dealer wants to conceal the noise of roaring, piping, or whistling, he takes the horse out a considerable distance before putting him to the gallop; and, in returning, he slackens the pace, so that the breathing may become tranquil before the horse reaches the examiner. This is called *the long trot*.

There are other diseases in which the horse makes a noise in his breathing. *The wheeser* breathes thickly and with difficulty. There is some noise, but it is not loud nor shrill; it is soft, and increased by exertion, but is often heard even when the horse is at rest. This also depends upon some alteration in the shape or calibre of the windpipe. *Thick wind* differs but little from wheesing; the horse breathes with difficulty; he is soon distressed; the flanks heave much, and rapidly; there is some little noise, but it is not that which attracts attention so much as the laborious heaving of the flank.

The Highblower utters a loud, irregular, mixed sound; sometimes it is like a mixture of the sounds produced by a roarer and a piper; at other times, it is something like the noise of a blast-furnace heard at a distance; the nostrils are widely dilated. The highblower is not always the same. On some days the noise is not so loud, and in a few cases it almost disappears after the horse becomes heated. In these it may possibly arise from temporary spasm of the muscles connected with the head of the windpipe. Some, however, have supposed that the noise is pro-

duced by some obstruction in the nostrils; possibly also it may, in a few cases, arise from some peculiar motion of the nostrils. It is never heard but during quick exertion.

Roaring is an unsoundness, whether it exists in the first-mentioned form, or in any of the others; most of which are merely modifications of the same disease. Professor Coleman, in his lectures, used to mention a horse that became a roarer in ten days; and Nimrod, in his Letters on Condition, tells us of one that contracted the same disease while standing in the stable, during the continuance of a frost.

Grunting.—Some horses, when suddenly struck with whip or spur, utter a short, single sound, resembling the grunt of a hog. These are termed *grunters*. Dealers shun them. They usually regard them as unsound. Little or nothing is known of the cause, or of the consequence; and at present veterinarians appear not to have made up their minds as to whether the horse is unsound or not. It may often be a symptom of disease; but it is met with in horses that show no sign of disease, unless this sound be regarded as one. The prudent purchaser, however, will avoid a grunter. The noise may be elicited by striking, or feigning to strike, the horse on the side; but he must see the coming blow, which should fall suddenly.

Examination subsequent to sale.—After the horse has been purchased and delivered, he may undergo another examination, more minute than could be per-

formed prior to the sale. His speed, power, docility, and education, and his soundness, may then be made the subjects of inquiry much better than when the horse was the property of another individual. If the horse has any defects—if he be unsound, or vicious, or have any other fault for which the warranty entitles the buyer to return him—it is probable that they will be discovered in the process of time; but the sooner they are discovered and challenged, the less is the chance of their pre-existence being disputed. A careful examination, according to the directions given in the preceding pages may detect that which might escape casual observation for weeks or months; and after the lapse of so much time, it may be impossible to prove that the horse had the defect complained of before he was sold. Besides, the price of the horse is not usually paid until a few days after delivery, and as it is often very difficult to get it refunded even after the horse is completely proved to have been unsound when sold, it is better, if it can be so managed, for the purchaser to retain the price until he has become better acquainted with his purchase; and he may use the interval to examine the horse for unsoundness, and for placing him under the influence of all those circumstances which usually make horses exhibit their vices. The stableman, too, should be instructed to give immediate information of any peculiarity which he may observe, whether it have reference to lameness, unusual habits, or viciousness. Among other unsoundnesses that cannot always be detected before purchasing, are crib-biting and wind-sucking. These are best discovered by the man who is oftenest in the stable, or most employed about the horse.

Chronic cough is rarely discovered until the horse has been several days in the possession of his new owner. He may cough once or twice, or oftener, when offered for sale, and yet he may have no disease, or he may have caught a cold. But chronic cough is another affair. The horse coughs very frequently; the sound is loud, harsh, dry, prolonged, and often repeated. When severely affected, the horse will often stand for several minutes, coughing as if he would shake himself to pieces. It is most common immediately after going into the stable, or upon coming out of the stable, or after eating or drinking. Many horses work well and hardly for years, with chronic cough; they appear not to suffer from it: but frequently they become broken-winded. This circumstance is sufficient to make the cough an unsoundness.

LAWS RELATING TO SALE AND WARRANTY OF HORSES.

Sale.—A contract of sale is an agreement between two parties, by which the one engages to convey to the other a certain subject for a certain price.

That each may be compelled to perform his own part of the contract, it is necessary to have some proof that the bargain was really and seriously made. When the terms are arranged, it is usual for the parties to join hands in token of their mutual agreement; and in some places the buyer gives a seller a small piece of money, as earnest, or part of the horse's price; or each gives to the other a written note of the contract.

In England, it is enacted by the statute against

frauds, that "No contract for the sale of any goods, wares, or merchandise, for the price of ten pounds or upwards, shall be allowed to be good, unless the buyer accept part of the goods so sold, and actually receive the same, or give something in earnest to bind the bargain or in part of payment, or that some note or memorandum in writing of the said bargain be made and signed by the parties to be charged by such contract, or their agents thenceunto lawfully authorized."

In Scotland, the law is somewhat different. There is no statutory enactment similar to the Statute of Frauds in England; and transactions of this kind are ruled by the common law, according to which the contract or bargain is fully completed, so as to prevent resiling, without either earnest, delivery, or note of sale.

The conditions of sale are of two kinds; they are implied or express. The former arise out of the nature of the contract, and are presumed to be a part of the agreement, if it be not otherwise stipulated; the latter arise from the introduction of some stipulation not usually or naturally understood in the transaction. Thus, if a borse be sold, and warranted, it is an implied condition that he may be returned within any reasonable time, if he is discovered to be unsound; but if it be stipulated that only three days are allowed for discovering unsoundness, it is an express condition, and the purchaser must abide by it. The conditions of sale may refer to the time of payment, the time and place of delivery, or to the qualitics of the horse, or to any other point usually or unusually connected with the contract of sale. In all cases, they must be

strictly complied with by both parties : a breach on the one side entitles the other to sue for performance or for damages, or to annul the bargain altogether.

The pasting up of the conditions of sale on the auctioneer's box, or on the walls or doors of the auction-room, or the publication of them in printed catalogues to be had in the room, is sufficient notice of the conditions.

Warranty.— Those conditions of sale which relate to the qualities of the horse, form the warranty. A horse might possibly be warranted lame ; but when the seller says he warrants the horse, he is understood to say that the horse is sound, and that he will be taken back if he should be otherwise.

Kinds of warranty.—By the law of *England*, warranties are express or implied ; the latter, however, differ in no respect from the former, except in the circumstance of proof. The intention to warrant is collected from the whole tissue of circumstances proved, and as a legitimate deduction from them, like the presumption of any other part not established by direct evidence ; while the express warranty is proved by direct and express testimony to the fact itself. To give a single instance :—In *Jones against Bowden*, it was proved to be the uniform course and habit of dealing in a particular place, if the articles were sea-damaged, to state that fact on the sale of it : a sale was made without any such statement, and it was therefore held that the article was warranted not sea-damaged. This was an implied warranty.

But in *Scotland*, warranty is *always implied* in the contract of sale—unless perhaps excluded by the

practice of particular trades.* If the seller intend not to warrant, he must expressly say so. Those faults, however, which relate to temper, steadiness, timidity, use, &c., are not within the limits of an implied warranty. They must be guarded against by express undertaking; and it becomes a question of evidence whether such engagement has been undertaken, and how far it has been complied with.

In Scotland, then, the warranty of soundness is always implied, in England it must be expressed.

A qualified warranty is one in which the horse is warranted sound, with the exception of something pointed out at the time of sale.

What constitutes a Warranty.—In *England*, to show that the horse was warranted, it is necessary to prove by written or oral testimony, or by circumstantial evidence, that the seller said he was warranted, or that he was sound. In *Scotland*, it is sufficient to show that the horse was bought at a sound price; but if the seller can prove that he said he would not warrant, that rules the contract.

Price.—It is a common opinion that no horse sold for less than ten pounds can be held as warranted; but this is a mistake. There is no fixed price. A pony

* In Scotland, and I believe in England, the most of dealers never buy a high-priced horse without demanding a warranty; but a great many private persons never think of inquiring whether the horse is warranted or not. Some ask if he is all right, and appear content when the seller replies that he is, as far as he knows.

may bring eight or nine pounds if he is sound, but the same animal may not be worth one, if unsound; and the purchaser of a pony at eight pounds, is surely as much under the protection of the law as the purchaser of a hunter at a thousand. The court requires to know, not only what was paid, but what the animal would be worth, if sound. Thus, in a dispute about a mare that had cost twenty-five pounds, and was sold, after six months, for eight, it was held that she could not be warranted. In England the payment of a sound price does not of necessity warrant the horse; in Scotland it does, and this law gives rise to much litigation and knavery. A horse evidently unsound may be purposely bought at a sound price, and the buyer, after taking much work out of the animal, may return him and demand the money, or refuse to pay it, and the seller has no remedy unless he can fully prove that he said he did not warrant.

Form and extent of Warranty.—The warranty is usually included in the receipt for the money, after the following manner :—

“ *Glasgow, 22d February, 1836.* ”

Received from A. B. the sum of thirty pounds sterling, for a Bay Gelding, warranted Sound, and free from Vice.

C. D.”

It may be much more extensive; the age, the fitness for work, and freedom from blemishes, might also be included. But, however lavishly the seller may praise the horse before purchase, few are willing to certify all this upon paper. Indeed, it can hardly be expected

that he should, considering to what an extent it makes him responsible—and considering also how liable horses are to change, when they pass under other management.

The warranty should be written—it may be verbal, and proved by oral testimony; but, in case of dispute, witnesses may be out of the way; they may forget; they may be tampered with; and their attendance in court adds much to the expense. None of these objections apply to the written guarantee.

The written warranty should contain all the important conditions of the bargain. In Pickering against Dowson, Chief Justice Gibbs said, “I hold that if a man brings me a horse, and makes any representations whatever of his quality and soundness, and afterwards we agree *in writing* for the purchase of the horse, that shortens and corrects the representations; and whatever terms are not contained in the contract, do not bind the seller, and must be struck out of the case.” It is the same in Scotland.

A servant or agent, such as an auctioneer or livery stable keeper, may warrant, and his warranty binds the principal, unless he gave express orders to the contrary.

Duration of warranty.—Some people entertain a very erroneous notion of warranty. They imagine that it makes the grantor responsible for whatever may happen to the horse for a definite period *after sale*; some say three days—some three weeks—others three months—and others, still more foolish and inconsiderate, would have it extend to six months. But the truth is, the warranty has no reference to any future

event, except such as may arise from causes existing before or at the time of sale.

Breach of warranty.—Should the horse be discovered to be unsound, or vicious, or to have any other fault guarded against in the warranty, the buyer is entitled to rescile. He agreed to buy the horse upon condition that he was sound, docile, &c., and he finds that the conditions have not been complied with ; and the law affords him a remedy.

Return.—Before he draws back, however, he should be certain that he has sufficient reason for doing so. In the first place, he should ascertain whether the unsoundness, or whatever the fault be, really exists ; and next, he should learn, if possible, whether it existed *before*, or was produced *after*, sale : If this book does not afford him the requisite information, he must apply to a veterinarian. And, that there may be no suspicion of partiality, or, as it should be called, of dishonesty, his opinion as to the cause and age of the unsoundness should be obtained before he is informed of whom the horse was purchased. He may know the horse for an old patient ; but if he is honest he will either give an impartial opinion, or he will refuse to examine the horse at all—which perhaps is the best way, as long as he has to deal with people who cannot understand why he should hesitate to sacrifice his self-esteem and professional reputation for their paltry interests.

The buyer is sometimes too much influenced by the reports of his stableman. He may be told that the

horse has got the lampas, worms, humours, and a hundred other ill things about him : but he should make further inquiry before he proceeds against the seller ; and it may possibly be found that the fault is not in the horse, but in the man who sold him. With unpardonable negligence he has omitted to pay the initiatory fee ; and there is nothing wherewithal to christen the poor beast, and to drink long life and good luck to him.

Breach of warranty, however, having been ascertained, the buyer is at liberty to annul the contract. The horse is returnable. The English law punishes a breach of warranty more severely than the Scottish.

In England, the buyer may return the horse, and demand or pursue for the price ; or he may retain the horse, and bring an action on the warranty for the difference between the price and the real value. If he offer to return, he may also recover the expenses of the horse's keep ; but in this case a positive offer to return is said to be necessary.* To entitle the buyer to maintain the action, no notice of the unsoundness need be given ; nor is it necessary to bring the action immediately on discovering the unsoundness.

But though a notice is not essential, yet it ought

* As in the case of *Carsewell v. Coare*, where, upon breach of the warranty proved, but no tender made of returning the horse, it was objected that the buyer could recover nothing for the keep. Lord Mansfield said, "The contract being broken, the seller must give back the money, and the buyer must return the horse ; but unless he has previously tendered him, he cannot recover for the keep, because it was not the seller's fault that the buyer kept him."

always to be given, as the omitting so to do will furnish, at the trial, a strong presumption that the horse, at the time of sale, was free from the defect complained of; thus rendering the proof of a breach of warranty more difficult. Common justice and honesty, it has been remarked, require that the commodity should be returned at the earliest period, and before it has been so changed by lapse of time, that it may be difficult or impossible to ascertain what were its original qualities. The law indeed requires that the horse be returned in as good condition as he was in at the time the unsoundness was discovered: if the animal fall in value subsequent to this period, the seller cannot be compelled to take him back; and the purchaser in such a case can only rely on his action for recovering a proportional part of the price.

In Scotland, the law, with regard to return, is different, and fairer. The purchaser cannot, as in England, retain the horse, and bring an action to recover the difference between the price and the real value. He must either keep him at the price paid, or return him on getting repayment; and if he have suffered direct damage from the unsoundness, &c., of the horse, he will also have an action of damages for reparation.

Moreover, the return must be immediate. So soon as the unsoundness is discovered, the purchaser is bound to give notice to the seller, and offer to return the horse; and failing to do so, he is held to have acquiesced in the defect, and is barred from an action on the seller. The exact time, after coming to the knowledge of the defect, within which the purchaser must offer to return, has never been precisely fixed; but there must

be no undue delay, and the sooner a purchaser gives notice the better.

In Scotland, it is the usual practice among dealers, after discovering unsoundness, to get the horse examined by a veterinarian, who gives a written certificate, containing his opinion as to the cause of the unsoundness, and the time it has existed. The buyer sends this certificate to the seller, at the same time requesting that the horse be taken away, and the money returned. If this notice be neglected, the horse is then put up at livery, and the seller informed of where he is standing. The purchaser then sues for the horse's price, and the expenses incurred.

The certificate of unsoundness is usually couched in the following terms :—

“ *Glasgow, 22d February, 1836.* ”

“ At the request of Mr. A. B., I have this day examined a Dark Brown Gelding, five years old, said to have been purchased, three weeks ago, from Mr. C. D., of Edinburgh ; and I hereby certify that I find the horse lame from spavin in the right hock, and that, in my opinion, he was unsound at the time of sale.

“ *E. F., Veterinary Surgeon.* ”

The charge for the examination, and this certificate, is ten shillings and sixpence, supposing the horse to be brought to the premises of the veterinarian. The names, it will be observed, ought to be written at full length ; and the description of the horse may be more complete. A certificate, however, of this kind is useless, unless it come from a qualified veterinarian. The

seller may and should reject the opinion, or at least refuse to pay for the opinion, of a quack, or as he generally calls himself, a farrier. The fee is payable by the buyer, who demands it from the seller.

Delivery.—Delivery may be made to the buyer, his servant, or authorized agent.

Delivery may be made by putting the horse into the stable of the buyer;

And he is delivered if the seller transfer him from his sale to his livery stable.

The seller is bound to offer immediate delivery, and if any expense or loss is incurred by the buyer's refusal to accept, it must be borne by the buyer only.

The seller may refuse to deliver till he receives payment; but *after* delivery, he can only sue for the price, not for return of the horse.

And if the price be paid *before* delivery, the buyer can only insist for delivery, not for return of the money.

On the seller refusing to deliver, the price being tendered, the buyer may either annul the contract, or raise an action for performance and damages.

And if the buyer refuse to pay the price, delivery being offered, the seller may, after the lapse of a reasonable time, either sue for payment or annul the bargain, and resell the horse.

Risk between buyer and seller.—The contract of sale being concluded, and the seller not refusing to deliver upon tender of the price, the whole risk is the buyer's. The horse may meet with an accident, he

may fall lame, or take disease, and die in a day or an hour after sale ; but the evil falls altogether upon the buyer, unless it can be proved to have arisen from some cause existing ~~at~~ or before sale, or from some fault or neglect of the seller.

Conclusion.—It may be well to observe that the preceding articles on sale and warranty must not be expected to furnish all the information which may be desired in every case of disagreement between buyer and seller. Disputes beyond number may arise, and the principal transaction may be obscured or complicated by such a variety of circumstances that no written laws can anticipate and provide against the whole of them. In general, it is only cases of this intricate character which are carried into a court of justice. When it can easily and clearly be shown that wrong has been suffered, the offender is usually willing to afford redress as soon as he finds that the aggrieved individual is determined to seek it from the law. But there are a great many disputes in which each party thinks himself on the right side. When there is any doubt about the matter, the aggrieved should consult a professional man, a lawyer, as to whether he is wronged or not, and as to his chance of obtaining redress. The complainer should give his agent a full and explicit account of *all* the circumstances, and he should endeavour to do so as briefly as possible. It should also be known, before adding other expenses to the loss already sustained, whether it be possible to obtain the amount of damages from the defendant, even though it were proved that he is entitled to pay

them. Of course it is needless to prosecute a man for money which he has no means of paying, or one who can make it appear so.

Into a lawsuit, regarding a horse, no man should enter without consideration. The delay in the proceedings, and the expense attending them, are abundantly vexatious; and it is seldom possible to foresee how the cause will end. Many are willing to suffer the wrong, and to sacrifice a few pounds rather than encounter so much annoyance, and they cannot be greatly blamed. Looking at the decisions that have been made in courts, there can be no doubt but many of them are erroneous. This is not to be wondered at. The judge, in general, is wholly unacquainted with stable affairs; he hardly knows the language of the principal witnesses; and when the testimony of one contradicts the testimony of another, he knows not to which he should give the most credit. I have no doubt but he is frequently embarrassed by technical words, which the witness can neither explain nor do without. The most important witnesses are often stablemen and farriers, who always speak their own slang language without considering that it is intelligible only among themselves; and when they are desired to explain any word, they may attempt it, but they seldom succeed. Professional men are not so bad; yet they, too, very frequently produce error or confusion by using technical words—that is, words not in general use, whether they are confined to a class of learned, or to a class of ignorant persons. When a question is asked as to the nature of a disease or unsoundness, it is not the mere

name, scientific or vulgar, that is wanted, nor yet a scientific account of the disease in all its forms and stages, but a very short description of the disease as it exists in that particular case. In almost every instance this may be done most explicitly without the use of a single ambiguous word. The description had better be too short than too long; it should resemble a definition. Further information may be obtained by inquiry; and all questions should be answered directly to the point. It is much better to deliberate for a moment, in arranging an answer, than to utter a string of disjointed tedious nonsense.

When the evidence of one witness is in opposition to that of another, the judge, from certain circumstances, is very often able to distinguish between the true and the false. But he also, especially in Scotland, often overlooks a very material difference in the professional education of the witnesses. A mere quack, who knows no more of anatomy and medicine than a butcher, is sometimes summoned into court, and his evidence pitted against that of a man who has studied his profession as regularly, and received the aids of other sciences in the same manner as a medical practitioner. This is far from being common, but it sometimes happens. The agent, however, on the other side usually takes exceptions to the evidence of the quack, and gets it thrown aside altogether, or he takes such advantage of it as to make it subservient to his own ends. The quack usually styles himself a farrier, but one or two have dared to assume the name which properly belongs only to the qualified man—the veteri-

narian. The less either purchaser or proprietor has to do with them the better. They are always bringing vexation or loss to some one.

Besides the above circumstances which complicate horse causes, or render the nature of the ultimate decision uncertain, there are various others arising out of the liability of the animal to rapid changes, the difficulty of procuring positive proof, the difference of opinion on the same subject even among professional men, and the ease with which unprincipled loungers about stables may be made to swear to any thing. Low dealers have always plenty of these characters at command.

General Cautions relating to Buying.

Never purchase a horse from a friend ; nor from a litigious man ; nor a petty lawyer ; nor from one who cannot pay the expenses of a lawsuit.

Never, before purchase, show that you are exceedingly well-pleased with the horse.

Hear all that the seller and his grooms say about a horse ; but be certain of nothing till you have ocular demonstration.

Never appear to know any of the tricks of dealers, unless they be attended with cruelty, when it may be proper to discourage and punish them by expressing disapprobation, and refusing to have any transactions with such men.

But never be so rude as to betray any suspicion of want of faith in the dealer. It is always very offensive, quite useless, impolitic, and it may be erroneous.

If you discover an unsoundness, or vice, before purchase, it is needless to point it out. To say that the horse is too good for your purpose may serve as well. You need not offend the owner; and you have no right to give the horse a bad character, even when you are quite sure that he deserves it.

Seldom give the price first asked. Twenty, or thirty, or even forty per cent. is no great abatement in horse-dealing.

Be cautious when a seller warrants a horse, and at the same time candidly tells you of some defect. A little tenderness, produced by a bad shoe, may mean incurable lameness; a slight cough, of no consequence, may signify broken wind, or chronic cough; and when it is said the horse is a little troublesome to go about, it may often be concluded that he is notoriously vicious.

When an auctioneer says that the horse is not warranted, but that he will warrant him for a guinea, his offer may sometimes be taken, but upon condition that a fair trial be allowed before payment.

Always, when possible, delay payment until the horse has been minutely examined and tried.

Be suspicious when delivery is refused until the price is paid, or a certain portion of it deposited—that is, when you are known to be credit-worthy.

When a horse has many faults, object only to that for which he can be returned. To object first to the price, then to windgalls, and last of all to spavin, is to

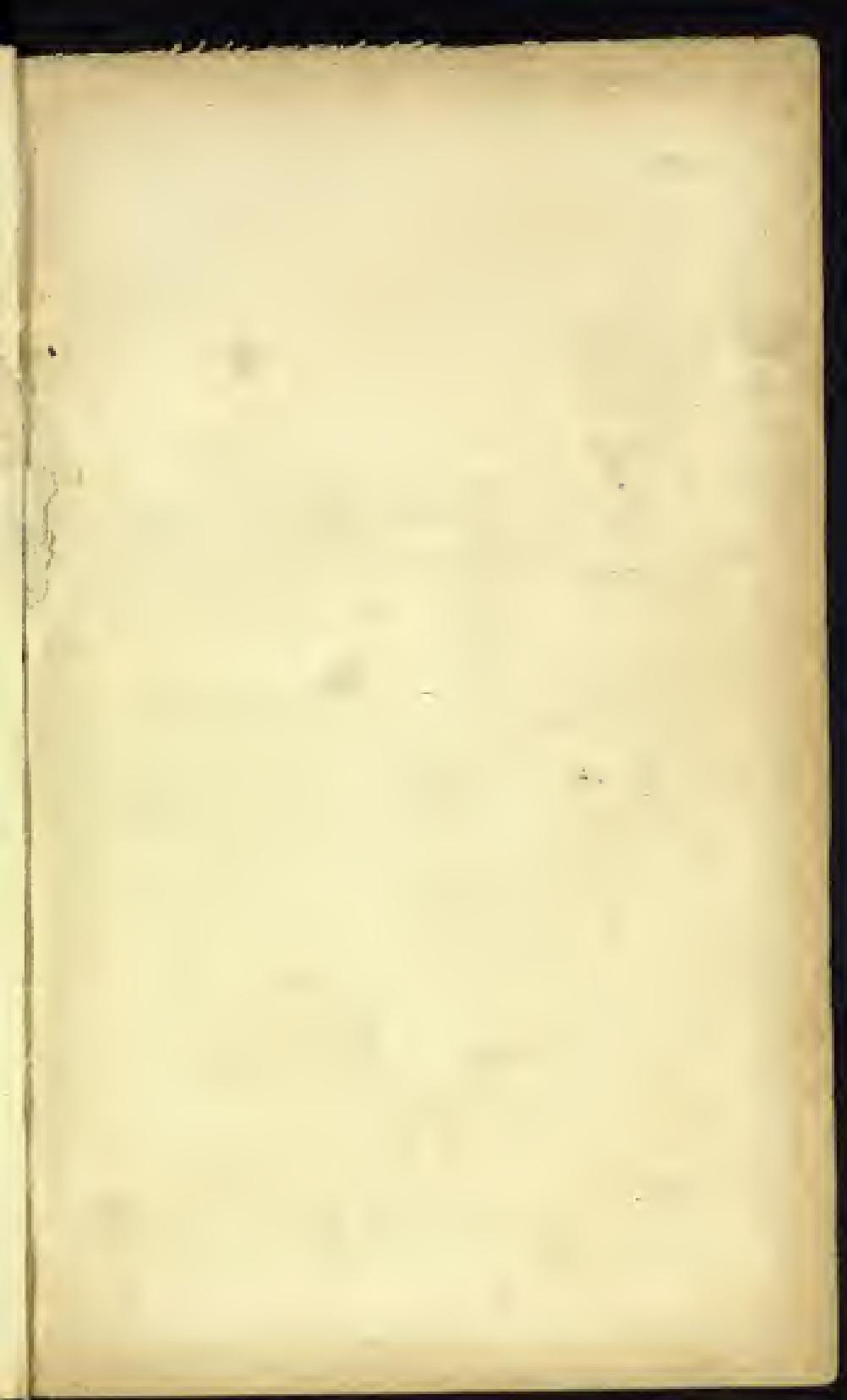


Fig. 1.

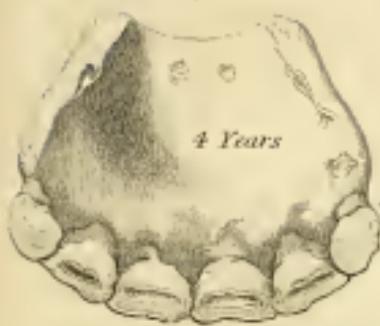


Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



say that, right or wrong, you are determined to break the contract.

To a person of doubtful character never, and to a dealer seldom, return a *paid* horse until the price is refunded. There are men who manage to keep both the horse and the money.

Engravings of the Teeth.

These four figures were drawn from the teeth of horses known to be of the ages represented ; the soft parts, the gums, had been removed from them all except the five-year-old, which was put into the hands of the delineator the day after the horse's death.

The first figure shows two of the temporary in contrast with four of the permanent teeth. The mark in the central pair is unusually faint ; but the oval form of the wearing surface is very evident when contrasted with any of the older mouths.

The second figure shows the shape of the tusks, and of the corner teeth, soon after their appearance.

In the third figure, age has altered the shape, and the direction of the teeth. It is not common for a nine-year-old mouth to have so much mark. With people who guess the age entirely by the mark, this would pass very well for a seven-year-old, while others, who look also to the shape of the wearing surface, and the elongation of the teeth, and their direction, would come nearer the truth.

The fourth figure is introduced to show, in an extreme degree, the alterations which the teeth undergo in their shape, length, and direction. It shows the diminished breadth of the jaw, as well as of the teeth from side to side ; the smoothness, the round, triangular, or equilateral form of the wearing surface, and the elongation of the body.

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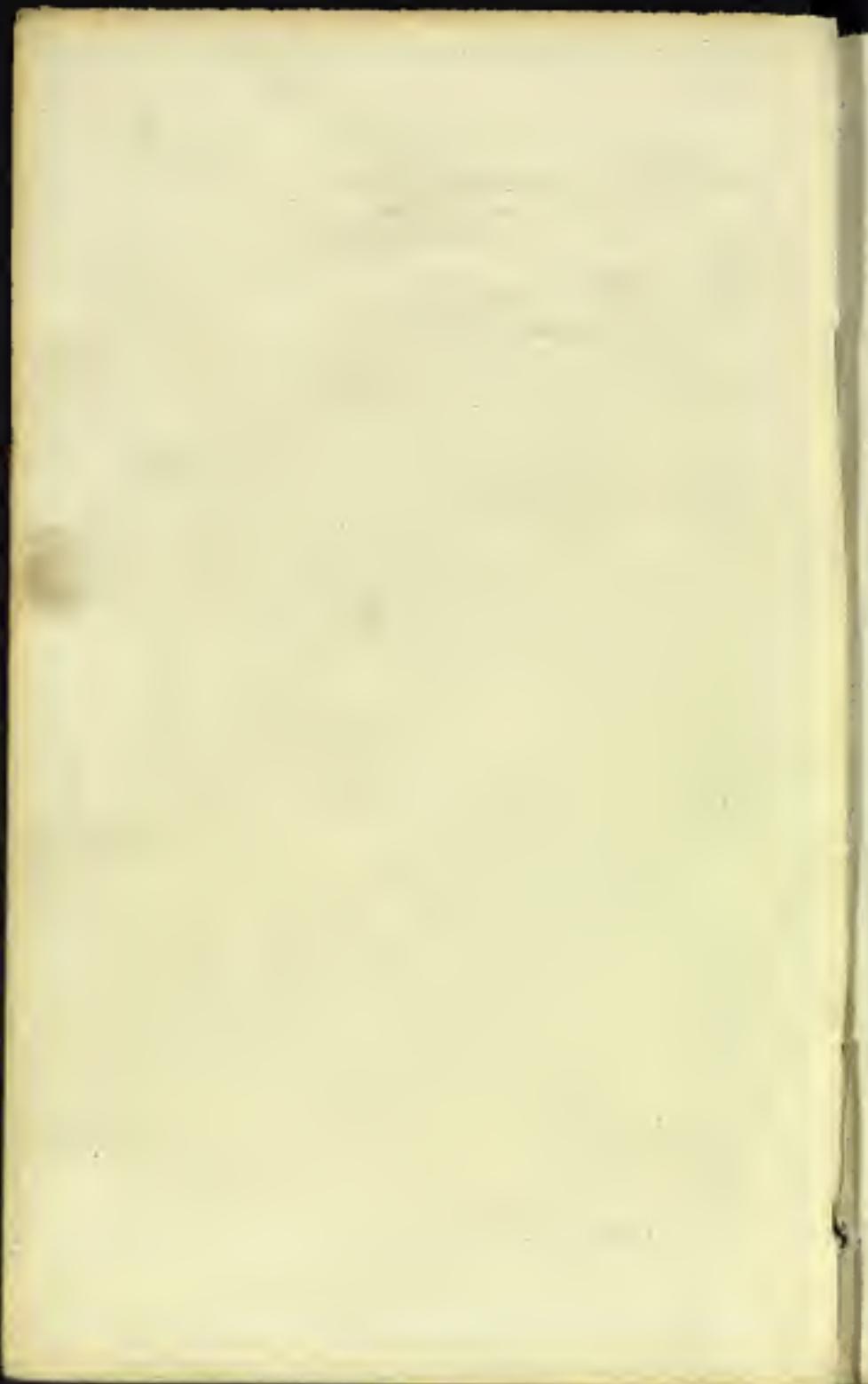
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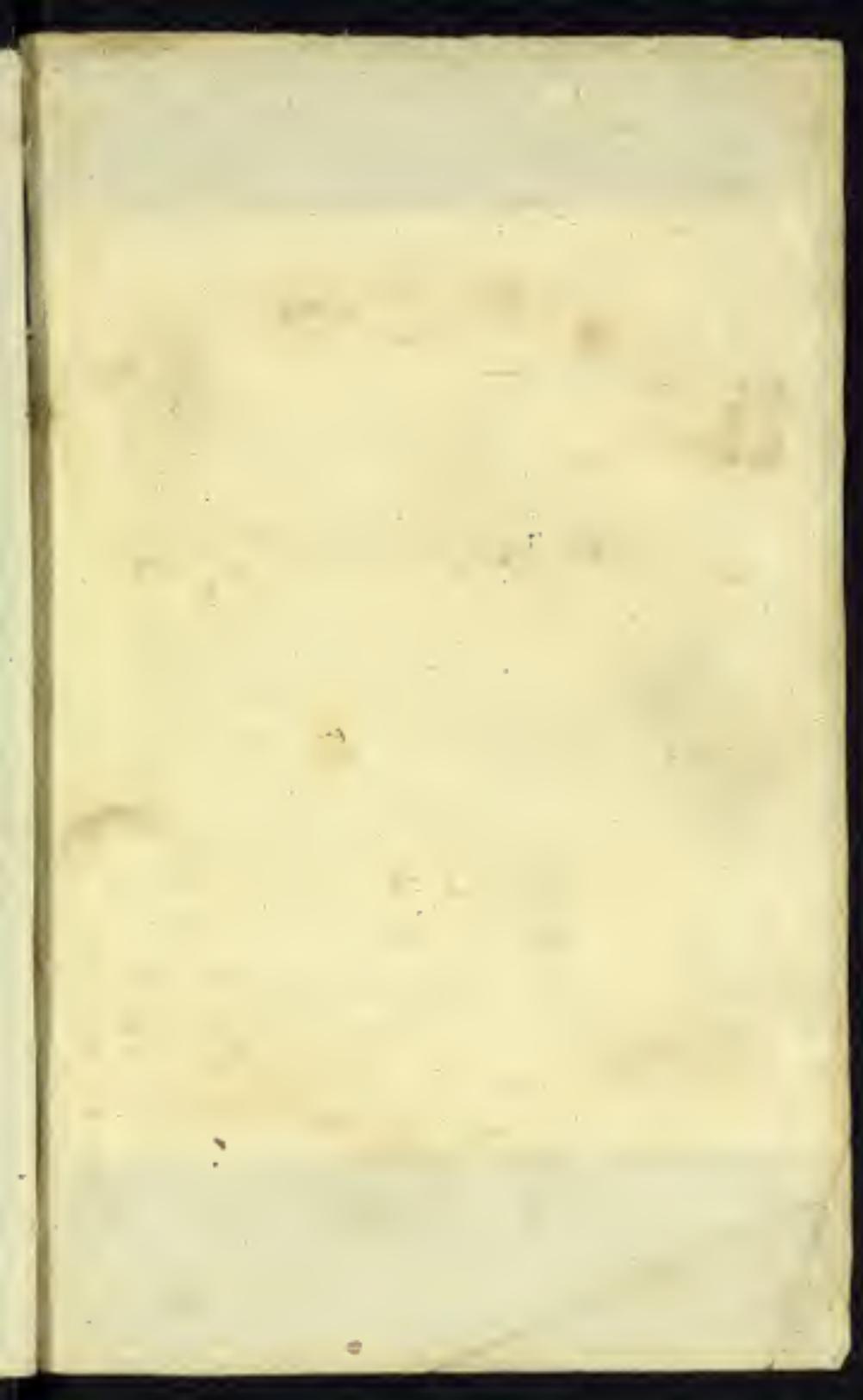
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